

LOUIE, LOUIE! — The creators of this year's winning 6.270 robot, King Louie, celebrate their victory.

'King Louie' Claims Yearly 6.270 Crown

Robot Is Almost Perfect in Run to Victory

By Kevin R. Lang

NEWS EDITOR

After making quick work of "Quik Chow," charging past "El Matador," and fixing "Handy Job," "King Louie" flopped to victory in "Bots in Blue," this year's 6.270 Autonomous Robot Design Competition.

Just before the final round, "King Louie" teammates Ian M. Finn '01, Liyan Guo '03, and Stanley Hu '00 used a parody of the Marine Corps "prayer" from Stanley Kubrick's *Full Metal Jacket* as a battle cry. "This is our robot. There are many like it, but this one is ours. Our robot is our best friend. It is our life. We must master it as we must master our lives."

"We thought it would be entertaining," Hu said, although he doubted if many people knew the reference.

"King Louie" almost perfect

In this year's competition, "hacker," "student," and "professor" blocks were placed on a board that was divided into two sections corresponding to East and West Campus. Robots attempted to place hackers in jail and keep professors and students on their side of campus.

"King Louie's" strategy was to simply move forward, extend its

arms, and pull back four professor blocks onto its side of campus. "King Louie" scored 12 points in every match throughout 6.270, until the final round. On the first match of the best-of-three final against Team 47, "Perrin," "King Louie's" arms deployed early, causing it to miss two of the professor blocks; "Perrin" easily won the match 8-4.

"In practice we know that we weren't 100 percent consistent," Hu said. "We certainly didn't expect that to happen."

For the final two matches, though, "King Louie" scored its usual 12 points to win 6.270.

"King Louie" was named for the ape king from the Disney movie *The Jungle Book*, and "Perrin" was named for MIT alumnus

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I-Campus Proposals Selected

By Naveen Sunkavally

NEWS EDITOR

A portable mobile workstation the size of a PalmPilot and a cryptographically secure MIT Card are among the six proposals that have been chosen by the MIT/Microsoft I-Campus Joint Steering Committee for further funding consideration. Twenty proposals were submitted.

The six student groups whose proposals made it past the preliminary stage will submit final proposals by Feb. 12, said Harold Abelson '73, co-director of Project I-Campus. In the interim, the groups will be working closely with the steering committee and will have an opportunity to visit Microsoft this coming weekend to further develop their proposals.

"I expect to fund about three stu-

I-Campus, Page 23

Silbey Named as Interim Dean of Science

By Dana Levine

ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

Professor Robert J. Silbey takes office as Interim Dean of Science today, replacing Robert J. Birgeneau.

Silbey was appointed by Provost Robert A. Brown after Birgeneau resigned to become President of the University of Toronto. Birgeneau will leave MIT to assume his new position in July.

"Bob Silbey is an outstanding faculty member, a world-class researcher, and an experienced administrator," said President Charles M. Vest.

Silbey has extensive experience

Silbey came to MIT in 1966 and has served as Professor of Chemistry for the past 34 years. In 1989, he was appointed as the Class of '42 Professor of Chemistry, a position which he still holds.

Silbey is currently the head of the Center for Material Science Engineering, and he served as head of the Chemistry Department from 1990 to 1995. He received the School of Science Teaching Award in 1986, a Graduate Student Council Teaching Award in 1988, and was named a Margaret MacVicar Faculty Fellow in 1996.

Silbey described his long years at MIT as his principal qualification for being appointed to the position

of interim dean.

"I think that it will be a comfortable fit," Silbey said.

Vest described Silbey as being "ideally suited to provide leadership and continuity to the School of Science."

Silbey anticipates a smooth transition, and he does not foresee big changes in the way which the Department of Science is run.

"I've worked with Bob Birgeneau for 10 years and known him for 25. We pretty much see eye-to-eye," Silbey said.

Replacement search continues

Silbey, who will serve as dean until a replacement can be found,

Silbey, Page 24

Citizens Voice Concerns At New Dorm Hearing

By Efrén Gutierrez

STAFF REPORTER

MIT and the Cambridge City Planning Board met this past Thursday with concerned Cambridgeport residents about MIT's new dormitory.

Cantabridgians expressed concern about the appearance of the building as well as how it will fit in with the rest of the Cambridgeport community. One citizen said, "In art, if it's ugly it could be covered and never seen, but in architecture, if it's ugly, it's a failure as a building."

Meeting part of permit process

Because of the size of the planned new dorm, MIT filed an Interim Planning Overlay Proposal permit last week. Sarah E. Gallop, Co-Director of the Office of Government

and Community Relations said, "As part of the requirements of the permit, a meeting must be made with the community. Then the input from that meeting will then be reviewed by the City Development Board."

At the hearing, O. Robert Simha, Director of the Planning Office at MIT, displayed various views of the new dorm from different locations in Cambridge. Simha also talked about the "master plan" for Vassar St. "As of right now, Vassar St. is an industrial street, but other dormitories will follow to make it more residential," he said.

Height, appearance are concerns

Most citizens questioned the

Hearing, Page 27



Following the recent electrification of Amtrak's railway between New Haven, CT and Boston, the first Acela Regional train to Boston arrives yesterday in New Haven, CT. Acela Regional service is being launched this week with two daily electric-powered roundtrips between Boston and Washington, DC.



The Tech's 1999 Year in Review is included as a supplement to this issue.



Millennium Ball

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FEATURES

The Tech introduces Dr. Do It and Ms. Emotion, experts on love and relationships.

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WORLD & NATION

Research Offers Hope Of Reducing AIDS Transmission

THE WASHINGTON POST

SAN FRANCISCO

A low concentration of the AIDS virus in the bloodstream greatly decreases the chance that an infected man or woman will transmit the disease to a heterosexual partner, according to two studies from Africa presented at a scientific meeting here.

That observation raises the possibility that an imperfect AIDS vaccine may yet be useful in the region where 70 percent of the world's cases of human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection occur. Specifically, it suggests that a vaccine that fails to block initial infection — but does manage to lower a person's "viral load" — may reduce that person's ability to pass the virus on to someone else.

Nearly 70 percent of the 34 million people with HIV live in sub-Saharan Africa, where heterosexual intercourse is the dominant mode of virus transmission. The two studies, presented at the Seventh Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections, looked at the experience of African couples in which one person was infected with HIV and the other was not.

In a study from the rural Rakai district of Uganda, researchers followed 415 "HIV-discordant" couples for 30 months. In slightly more than half, the man was the partner infected. In 90 of the couples (about 22 percent), the uninfected partner ultimately acquired the infection. Male-to-female transmission was as likely as female-to-male.

The big determinant of transmission was viral load. People with more than 50,000 viruses per milliliter of blood had 10 times the chance of transmitting their infection as people with fewer than 3,500 viruses per milliliter. In the 50 couples in which one partner had a viral load less than 1,500, there were no transmissions at all.

Illinois Governor Declares Moratorium on Executions

THE WASHINGTON POST

CHICAGO

Advocates of a nationwide moratorium on the death penalty Monday hailed an announcement by Gov. George H. Ryan, R., that he will block executions in Illinois until capital punishment procedures are thoroughly investigated, and they urged other governors to follow suit to prevent irreversible miscarriages of justice.

Ryan said Monday that he will stay scheduled executions until a special commission he appoints conducts an inquiry into the cases of 13 death-row inmates who have been cleared of murder charges since capital punishment was reinstated in 1977. In the same period, 12 condemned prisoners have been put to death.

Ryan told a news conference here that he was deeply troubled by the exonerations, some of which came close to when the inmates were to die by lethal injection.

"I now favor a moratorium because I have grave concerns about our state's shameful record of convicting innocent people and putting them on death row," Ryan said. He said he could no longer support a system that "has come so close to the ultimate nightmare, the state's taking of an innocent life."

Illinois becomes the first of 38 death penalty states to impose a moratorium on capital punishment while it studies the state-sanctioned killing.

House GOP Pushes Early Action On 'Marriage Penalty' Tax Relief

THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON

House Republicans began moving Monday towards early action on a plan to use \$182 billion of future surpluses in the coming decade to provide tax relief to about 25 million married couples.

The proposal, unveiled by Ways and Means Committee Chairman Bill Archer, R-Tex., would boost the standard deduction and expand the lowest tax brackets to provide the average married couple with \$471 of annual tax relief, according to the Republicans. So-called "marriage penalty" relief enjoys broad-based support in both parties, and the Republicans included a marriage provision in a massive tax bill that was passed by Congress last summer but vetoed by President Clinton. Last week, Clinton embraced a far less costly version than favored by Republicans.

But Archer challenged Clinton, Vice President Al Gore and other Democrats to help pass a freestanding marriage penalty bill now and consider other provisions later in the year. He scheduled committee action on the Republican bill on Wednesday and has pledged final House action on the measure by Valentine's Day, Feb. 14.

"This Congress won't rest until we fix the marriage tax penalty," Archer told reporters Monday.

Senate Finance Committee Chairman William V. Roth Jr., R-Del., hailed Archer's proposal and promised to move a marriage penalty relief measure through the Senate this year. Rep. Charles B. Rangel (N.Y.), the ranking Ways and Means Democrat, agreed on the need for action this year, but criticized Archer for attempting to ram his bill through without consulting the administration or congressional Democrats.

WEATHER Feels Like Spring

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE

Tuesday: Partly cloudy skies. High 38°F (3°C). Low 26°F (-3°C).

Wednesday: Sunny weather. High 32°F (0°C). Low 16°F (-8°C).

Thursday: Bright and sunny. High 35°F (1°C). Low 22°F (-5°C).

Candidates Make Final Run For Votes In Pivotal Primary

By Mark Z. Barabak and Cathleen Decker

LOS ANGELES TIMES

MANCHESTER, N.H.

From the notches in the north to the suburbs in the south, New Hampshire was alive Sunday with the sounds of stumping, as seven would-be presidents swarmed the state 48 hours before its make-or-break primary.

Democrats Al Gore and Bill Bradley traded some of the sharpest barbs of their increasingly contentious campaign. Bradley accused front-running Gore of jumping "into bed with special interests." Gore charged Bradley with lying to boost his prospects. Each accused the other of dragging their contest into the gutter.

On the Republican side, Texas Gov. George W. Bush sparred with rival John McCain over who is more ready to step into the Oval Office.

"There's only one man who is fully prepared. I am fully prepared," Sen. McCain of Arizona, the front-



Frontrunner John McCain thanked supporters at the final rally of his New Hampshire campaign, held yesterday at the Bedford Town Hall.

runner here, said on NBC's "Meet the Press."

Appearing on CBS' "Face the Nation," Bush parried, "I am the one person in this race who has been elected to an executive position. I have been in the position of setting agendas, of making decisions."

The frenetic activity was just the run-up to Monday's final frenzy, as candidates girded their get-out-the-vote operations. Given the compressed electoral calendar, the contest here has shaped up as the pivotal event of the warp-speed campaign season.

McCain and Bradley have the most at stake. McCain skipped last week's Iowa caucuses to concentrate his efforts here. Bradley may wish he had as well, after suffering a nearly 2-to-1 thumping in the caucuses. Both need a win to ignite their candidacies, and New Hampshire's harsh landscape, with its penchant for rewarding the rugged, may offer the most hospitable terrain either insurgent will face.

"You can fairly easily see how Bush or Gore can survive a loss in New Hampshire," said Washington political analyst Charles Cook, citing the big edge the two front-runners enjoy among their parties' core

constituents. "But it's the do-or-die state for McCain and Bradley. I don't see how they can have a plausible shot at winning the nomination without winning in New Hampshire."

Campaigning in the far north, Gore launched one of his most pointed attacks on Bradley, drawing a roar of approval from a crowd of more than 1,000.

"He can't defend his own proposals, and so he's committed foul after foul," the vice president shouted. "Instead of the promise of character, courage and commitment, we have manipulative attack after manipulative attack."

Gore's campaign distributed a joint statement by the House and Senate Democratic leaders, Richard A. Gephardt of Missouri and Tom Daschle of South Dakota, saying they were concerned that Bradley's campaign "has taken a sharp negative turn."

In Nashua, Republican Steve Forbes once more took up the tax cudgel, questioning whether Bush would truly deliver on a promised \$483 billion tax cut. "It's a weak proposal on the table, leaving all the Washington gravy trains on the track," Forbes charged at a press conference.

Albright Decries Russia's Use Of Excessive Force in Chechnya

By Kathy Lally

THE BALTIMORE SUN

MOSCOW

U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright began a visit to Moscow Monday by confronting her hosts over the war in Chechnya, accusing Russia of using excessive force and exacerbating its problems with the region by indiscriminately targeting civilians.

Igor S. Ivanov, the Russian foreign minister, informed Albright that Moscow would fight Chechen terrorists as it saw fit, whether its methods were popular or not.

"We have made quite clear that we think that there has been an incredible amount of misery injected upon the civilian population of Chechnya," Albright told a news conference, "both militarily and also because of the creation of so many refugees."

Albright agreed with Russia's contention that it has been fighting terrorism, but she said that it has unnecessarily created a serious humanitarian situation.

"There has been excessive force used and civilians have been, I think, indiscriminately targeted in a way that has broadened and widened the problem," she said Monday afternoon, after six hours of wide-ranging meetings with Ivanov.

It was an unusually strong public disagreement between two top diplomats. Albright's tough talk was

in dramatic contrast to the earlier war in Chechnya, from 1994 to 1996, when the United States largely ignored similar Russian tactics.

Then, however, U.S. officials were optimistic about the prospects for democracy and warm relations with Russia. Now, doubts have arisen about both, and the new mood was reflected in Albright's comments.

The Russian foreign minister, who was sitting next to her at the joint news conference, argued that there was no agreed-upon way to fight terrorism.

"Unfortunately international practice has not yet produced a single formula for combating international terrorism," Ivanov said. "In each case terrorism is manifested in its own way and has its specific features, and in each case one has to use the forms, perhaps even unpopular forms, which in the opinion of the leadership of the country are effective in solving the problem."

Albright, however, argued that Russia's problems with Chechnya would not be solved with military might. The territory harbors a volatile mixture of rebels seeking independence, along with terrorists and kidnappers — and ordinary people desperately hoping for peace.

Russia is paying a high price for its refusal to negotiate with Chechnya, she said.

"I made it clear to the foreign

minister that it was my sense that Russia was paying a toll internationally for its actions and was being increasingly isolated," she said.

If such isolation occurred, Ivanov replied, it would only be temporary.

As they spoke, the bloody fighting continued. In reports from Chechnya, the Russian side asserted it had driven Chechen snipers out of high-rise apartment buildings they have occupied around the strategic Minutka Square in the capital, Grozny.

Chechen fighters, however, insisted that they remained in control of the square.

Russia has limited media access to the battlefield, carefully controlling reporters' movements.

Monday, officials said that they were investigating a reporter for Radio Liberty, financed by the U.S. government.

Russian forces in Chechnya held the reporter, Andrei Babitsky, for several days before they revealed that they had detained him. Officials said Monday that the soldiers who detained him suspected Babitsky of helping enemy forces.

Russia's general prosecutor plans to travel to Chechnya Tuesday or Wednesday to investigate the situation personally.

Commenting on the arrest, Albright said, "freedom of the press is very important in this situation as in others."

EU to Austria: Rightist Party In Govt. Will Mean Sanctions

By William Drozdiak

THE WASHINGTON POST

DAVOS, SWITZERLAND

In an unprecedented step against a member state, the European Union warned Monday that it would break off political contacts with any Austrian government that includes the far-right Freedom Party led by controversial Joerg Haider.

The dramatic threat of diplomatic sanctions by 14 of the EU's 15 member states against a European ally reflected growing alarm over the rise of Haider's party, which advocates a ban on immigration and a halt to expansion of the EU into Eastern Europe.

Haider, the telegenic son of a former Nazi official, led the Freedom Party to second place in parliamentary elections last October and is negotiating for his party to join a governing coalition. If he succeeds, it would be the first time since

World War II that an extreme right-wing party would enter government in a Western democracy.

Prime Minister Antonio Guterres of Portugal, which currently holds the EU's rotating presidency, declared that after a frantic round of consultations the EU had decided on punitive measures if Haider's party joins the Austrian government. They include freezing bilateral relations with Vienna, withdrawing support for any of its candidates for international posts and curtailing the role of Austria's ambassadors in EU capitals.

"If a party which has expressed xenophobic views, and which does not abide by the essential values of the European family, comes to power, naturally we won't be able to continue the same relations as in the past, however much we regret it," Guterres told reporters in Lisbon, the Portuguese capital. "Nothing will be as before."

Many EU members fear that the

presence of far-right ministers in Austria's next government would legitimize other right-wing movements that have challenged ruling establishments in France, Belgium and Italy. Neo-Nazi movements have also been on the rise in EU members Sweden and Germany, in addition to Norway.

The Freedom Party scored a record 27 percent of the vote in the Oct. 3 elections by promising to halt the influx of foreigners, block further expansion of the EU and sweep away ingrained corruption and cronyism that it says has poisoned a 13-year governing alliance between Austria's Social Democrats and the conservative People's Party.

After nearly four months of fruitless negotiations, Viktor Klima, the outgoing Social Democratic chancellor, last week gave up trying to persuade the People's Party to renew their coalition.

Hope Fades for Finding More Kenya Airways Crash Survivors

By Ann M. Simmons

LOS ANGELES TIMES

LAGOS, NIGERIA

Hopes of finding more than the 10 known survivors of a Kenya Airways flight that crashed off the shores of Ivory Coast faded Monday, as scores of bodies continued to be pulled out of the Atlantic.

It remained unclear why the Airbus 310 went down Sunday night shortly after taking off from the Ivorian commercial capital, Abidjan. Airline officials said their focus would now be on retrieving the airliner's flight data recorder and cockpit voice recorder, in hopes of finding clues to the cause of the crash.

At the international airport in this sprawling port city, where the jet had been bound, friends and relatives of missing Nigerian passengers

burst into tears and threw themselves onto the floor in uncontrollable grief after the names of the survivors were read out in the arrivals hall.

"My sister was on the plane," cried a distraught Tayo Russell, 36. "She has two small children."

Many of the 179 passengers and crew members aboard the doomed jetliner were Nigerian, Kenya Airways officials said. But the flight manifest listed citizens from at least 23 countries, including the United States.

Sunday's crash was the first such disaster for Kenya Airways, which has been operating since 1977.

A team of senior Kenya Airways officials along with Kenyan army personnel were dispatched Monday to the site of the crash to assist with investigations. The team included experts in crisis counseling and sup-

port.

Some witnesses said the plane seemed never to gain sufficient altitude as it flew over a retaining wall at the edge of Abidjan's Felix Houphouet-Boigny International Airport. Others claimed to have seen fire and smoke belching from the aircraft as it labored to gain height.

The flight had originated in the Kenyan capital, Nairobi, Sunday and was meant to stop over in Lagos, but the plane flew directly to Abidjan because of weather conditions over Nigeria's steamy commercial capital.

Harmattans — strong, sandy winds blowing south from the Sahara Desert — had covered cities in Nigeria's north and southwest for several days, creating a thick, blinding blanket of haze and disrupting incoming flights at several airports.

Early Birds Staffers Work On Long-Term Care Legislation

THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON

Bipartisan backers of a group-rate long-term care insurance program for federal civilian and military personnel are getting an early start this year.

House and Senate staff members who are working on long-term care insurance legislation plan to meet this week, weather permitting.

When and if long-term care insurance for the federal family — military personnel, civil servants, retirees, spouses and some in-laws — is approved, it could be two years before coverage is offered. That puts the earliest start date sometime in 2002.

The program was first proposed years ago by then-Sen. Pete Wilson, R-Calif. Congress did important groundwork last year. The House civil service subcommittee had four hearings. It seems everyone favors a long-term care insurance option, but the devil is in the details.

Republicans want a program with minimal government oversight that would allow up to a half-dozen insurance plans to offer coverage. Premiums would be based on age at enrollment and benefit levels. For example, someone could pick coverage to start 30, 60 or 90 days after care was needed, with benefits (indexed to inflation) of \$75 to \$175 a day. Buyers also could pick the number of years that benefits would be paid.

The GOP-backed program would be similar to the existing federal health benefits program in the number of available plans. But the Office of Personnel Management would not have a major role in negotiating premiums and benefits, as it does in the health insurance program. Republicans argue that competition would produce the lowest premiums.

Democrats prefer a program in which a single insurance carrier (or perhaps two) would offer coverage. A multi-plan program, they contend, would lure many lower-income federal workers into plans with minimal benefits. Buyers would have the same range of benefit options, but they would be limited to one or two insurance providers.

Global Warming Conference Called Off Due to Snow

THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON

An urgent message last week from the global-warming types at the U.S. Global Change Research Program.

"Dear Folks:

"Unfortunately, due to the snow emergency and the shutdown of the federal government we have cancelled today's US Global Change seminar (January 25th) 'the Earth's Surface Temperature in the 20th Century: Coming to Grips with Satellite and Surface-Based Records of Temperature,' with Drs. Wallace and Trenberth. We will, however, reschedule this seminar for a later date and keep you informed accordingly. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

"Anthony Socci, Ph.D.

"Associate Director"

Socci, a former aide to Vice President Al Gore when Gore was in the Senate, is rescheduling the event for May when, it's hoped, the Earth, or at least this part of it, will be a bit warmer.

Graduate Student Council

Building 50-220, 253-2195 website: www.mit.edu/gsc/www

1999-2000 PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SEMINARS "CONFLICT RESOLUTION"

By Toni Robinson

ADR Options Consulting Inc. & MIT Ombudsperson

Wed., Feb. 2, Room 4-163

6-7:30 P.M.

GSC General Council Meeting Agenda

Feb. 2, 5:30pm-6:30pm

- GSC Representative Departmental Visits
- How will the reorganization of the deans' office affects graduate students?
- Housing
- Graduate/Business School Networking
- Advising -- Preview of GSN feature

OPINION

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Letters to the editor are welcome. Electronic submissions are encouraged and may be sent to letters@the-tech.mit.edu. Hard copy submissions may be addressed to *The Tech*, P.O. Box 397029, Cambridge, Mass. 02139-7029, or sent by interdepartmental mail to Room W20-483. All submissions

are due by 4:30 p.m. two days before the date of publication.

Letters must bear the authors' signatures, addresses, and phone numbers. Unsigned letters will not be accepted. Once submitted, all letters become property of *The Tech* and will not be returned. *The Tech* reserves the sole right to edit or condense letters. *The Tech* makes no commitment to publish all the letters received.

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The Tech's telephone number is (617) 253-1541. E-mail is the easiest way to reach us; send mail to general@the-tech.mit.edu. *The Tech* can be found online at <http://the-tech.mit.edu>.

Erratum

An article in last week's edition of *The Tech* [LEF Panel allocates \$25,235", Jan. 26] reported that the Large Event Funding committee gave the Lecture Series Committee "full funding" for a speech by Douglas Adams. While LEF did grant LSC all the money they applied for, this grant does not pay fully for the event.

An Overreaching Moratorium

Larkin Petition Excludes Too Much Land from Development

Michael J. Ring

Last week, the Cambridge City Council passed the overreaching Larkin petition, a measure that goes far beyond its stated purpose of saving East Cambridge from development, and instead becomes an assault on new building projects in an area which could sorely use them.

The petition imposes an 18-month moratorium on developments of over 20,000 square feet in the wedge of Cambridge east of Windsor Street and north of Main Street. Exemptions from the prohibition are made for the Southern Energy complex, an office and research building on Third Street, and the conversion of certain existing buildings to housing.

Areas included in the petition include the residential areas of East Cambridge and Wellington-Harrington, as well as a slice of Area 4. But the petition's boundaries also encompass some underutilized or vacant lots near Kendall Square removed from the residential neighborhoods. While development pressures in East Cambridge's residential neighborhoods are intense and the area's residential sectors could benefit from some temporary protections, the petition also includes several blocks on which new projects should be encouraged and welcomed by the city.

An amendment passed at last week's City Council meeting under the guidance of Councillor Anthony Galluccio exempted telecommunications projects in a small slice of land between Binney and Bent Streets from the petition boundaries. There is already a significant telecommunications presence in the area, as AT&T occupies a building within the parcel and Bell Atlantic occupies a building just outside the block. Telecommunications development would be an improvement over the small industrial buildings and warehouses that currently occupy that block, and a further provision of the amendment requiring some housing in the area is also welcome.

Galluccio's amendment to exclude the telecommunications parcel was a good measure to promote development without diluting protection to East Cambridge's residential neighborhoods. However, why stop at only those blocks? The same arguments can be made for the land south of Binney Street, which is further buffered from residential neighborhoods.

Councillor Michael Sullivan attempted to reconcile protections for East Cambridge and the need to encourage growth by narrowing the area bounded by the petition. Specifically,

he sought to move the southern boundary of the moratorium zone to Binney Street, several blocks north from Main Street. Unfortunately Sullivan's amendment was defeated, with only Councillors Kathleen Born and David Maher joining the amendment's author in voting for its passage.

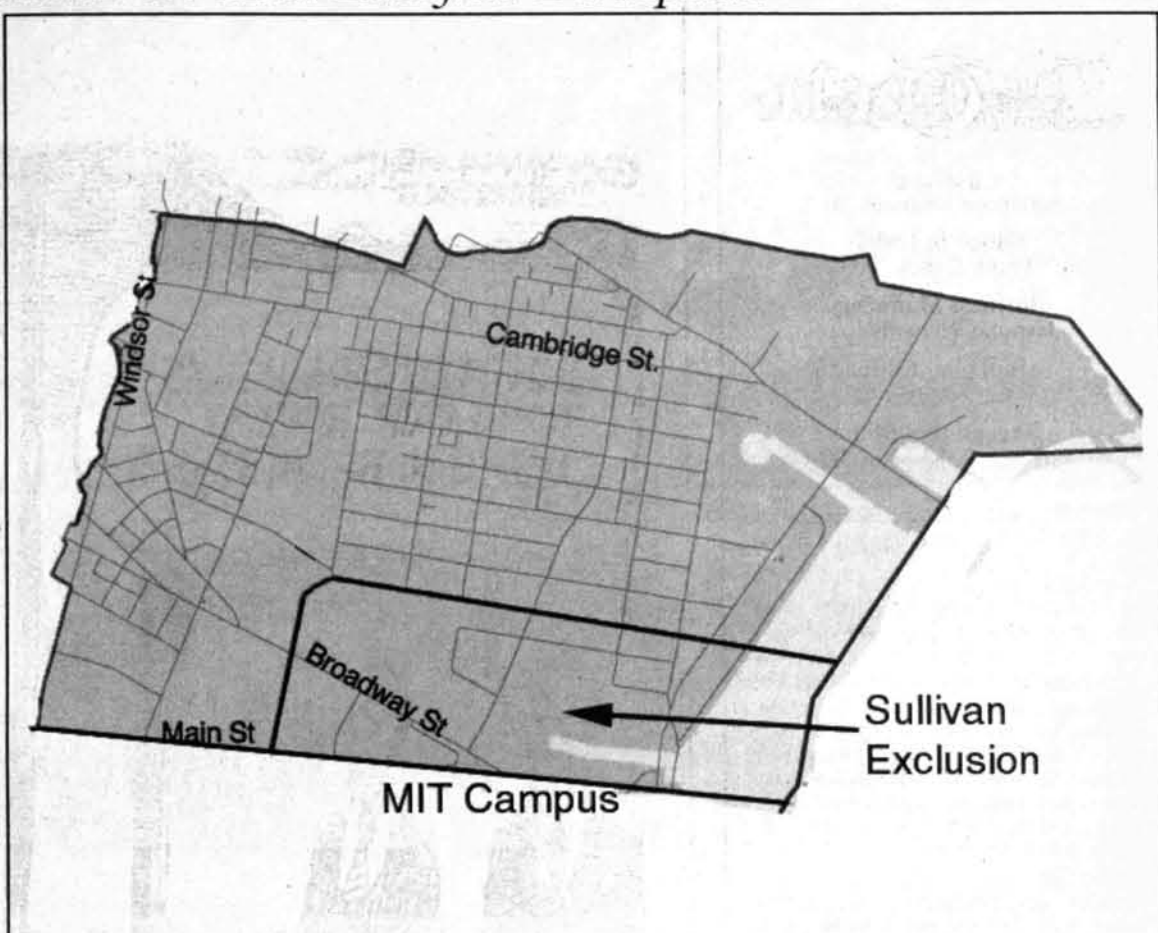
A walking tour of the blocks between Main Street and Binney Street proves the wisdom of Sullivan's amendment. The blocks between those two streets are a veritable urban wasteland, peppered by vacant fields, parking lots, and small, aging buildings unsuited for the research companies seeking to locate in the area.

Both Main Street and Broadway host large developments, but north of Broadway is land which should be fruitful for development.

Several narrow side streets such as Linskey Way function as little more than access roads for large parking lots.

Binney Street, which runs westward from Land Boulevard, is a desolate thoroughfare. The north side of the street contains a number of small, one and two-story buildings. The south side of the street hosts even less. Parking lots are housed on the blocks between First and Second and Second and Third Streets. West of Third Street, the south side of Binney is dotted by several small, low-rise concrete buildings before giving way to the Biogen complex and curving into Vassar Street.

Were these blocks located adjacent to residential sectors, a strong case could be made for their inclusion in the Larkin petition. But as the neighborhood currently exists, there are several blocks of transitional industrial development north of Binney Street before residential blocks are reached at Charles Street. The areas between Main and Binney should be open for development.



The Larkin petition's passage raises several potential problems for the city. One potential problem is that the Larkin petition will only raise development pressures in other parts of the city. By sparing East Cambridge from the shovel, does the city only doom other "hot" areas like Alewife to an even greater accelerated pace of development? A process which protects one neighborhood to the detriment of others is not good planning.

But the greater problem is that businesses fed up with all the development hurdles in Cambridge will choose to leave the city altogether. Ultimately, a large commercial and industrial base is necessary for the success of the city. Unless Cambridge is willing to tax its residential property owners into oblivion, a strong commercial-industrial tax base is needed to pay for schools, open space preservation, affordable housing, and the other initiatives important to the city. While the Larkin petition seems like a good idea in the short run, including too many parcels of land prime for development in the petition's boundaries is

detrimental to the city.

Cambridge is already viewed by many as a city hostile to development, and the city's continued prosperity depends on its ability to attract new, high-technology industries. Shutting off development between Main and Binney Streets for 18 months is a step backwards from that goal.

The city is facing many important questions regarding development and planning, and the needs and concerns of its residents must be central to any discussion. At the same time, city officials must not be careful to turn residents' protections into an anti-development crusade. A time-out for development in East Cambridge's residential neighborhoods and along Cambridge Street serves the needs of the former group. But by extending the development moratorium into barren areas which are anything but residential, the Larkin petition decays into a harmful prohibition against new construction in the commercial and industrial districts of East Cambridge.

Deconstructing Laissez-Faire

Guest Column
Philippe Larochelle

At the end of the article entitled "Rewarding Genius and Ambition" published in *The Tech* on January 19, Sourav K. Mandal states: "If the free market leads to impoverishment for some, so be it — its principles are perfect by me." This statement in itself seems to epitomize exactly what the growing laissez-faire/free market/pro-individualist movement on campus seems to stress: as long as I reap the benefits of such a system; the system is working marvelously. I'm sure Louis XVI would have offered a similar defense of monarchy.

It quickly becomes apparent why such a viewpoint can come to prominence with many people here at MIT. This being one of the foremost technical institutes in the world, we are undoubtedly among the people who would profit the most from a system in which the higher echelon of corporations pocket the vast majority of the money. This, however, does not mean that the system is right, just, or even sustainable. For one to adopt such a philosophy while turning a blind eye to the flagrant injustices that our system imposes on a large percentage on the population of the world is definitely irresponsible, and from the viewpoint of an arbitrary outside observer, nearly borders on the criminal.

What I would like to offer in this article is a response to the recent wave of individualist, pro-free market sentiment that has been surfacing throughout the campus in publications and articles like the one mentioned above. At the same time I would like to issue a defense of the very legitimate concerns expressed in Michael Borucke's article "Searching for a Better System" [January 12] that initially provoked Mandal's column.

Mandal proudly boasts that we live in the

"golden age of genius and ambition" where in vibrant companies the "bosses work longer and harder than any of their subordinates" and claims "to value a person simply because of his or her low station is to devalue the accomplishments of the courageous and able." What Mandal seems to be advocating here is a meritocracy where the people who work the hardest and accomplish the most should receive the largest compensation. However, this principle and providing a decent and equitable wage for workers and other people of "low station" are not mutually exclusive, but rather they are facets that should be universally adopted in appropriate measure. Having a wage gap in a society is necessary only so far as to create an incentive for people to seek out the knowledge and education necessary for higher level managerial or technical positions and is justified only if it benefits society as a whole. Centuries of philosophical thought and popular struggle have led to the strong backing of this principle. The relative salaries and job security of executives and employees are not something that should be left to a laissez-faire economy but rather should be held firmly to a legitimate scale.

What Mandal (and everyone else) should realize is that in our system the scales have been entirely tipped towards the compensation of people of "high station" (as I guess we should call them). In 2000 it is now the case in the United States that CEOs earn on average 691 times as much as the average worker of a company. The average CEO's salary has climbed 443 percent since 1990, while the worker's salary has gone up 28 percent (barely enough to compensate for the inflation of 22.5 percent) and the change in after-tax family income for the bottom 20 percent of the population has actually gone down 9 percent since 1977. So even if you accept Mandal's premise that the bosses of this world work

harder and longer than the workers of the world [which you shouldn't necessarily do], do they really work 691 times as long and hard? And are they somehow 5 and a half times as valuable as they were ten years ago? Have they taken on five times as many responsibilities? No. The answer to these questions is a resounding no. The salaries and perks of people of high station are what they are because they are the ones who determine what the salaries are, and if they can jumpstart their own salaries while keeping those of their subordinates down, that is precisely what they will (and have) done. If refraining from unnecessary layoffs or passing a reasonable amount of the profits of a company down to the large number of employees who have been essential to generating those profits makes a CEO feel "devalued" (whatever that means) so be it. It is better that one CEO feel devalued than to have thousands of workers who feel like slaves.

Mandal and others of similar views might turn to the so-called "chain of accountability" that Mandal mentioned in saying that a CEO's salary is dependent on the decisions of the shareholders, and that if the shareholders decide that the CEO deserved that salary then clearly he merits it. What is important to note is that shareholder's say in the affairs of a company is not democratic. It is one share one vote and not one person one vote. So chances are it is not the janitors in the company to whom the CEO would be responsible (their limited income affords little room for large market investing), but rather other people of his own caste who themselves have a vested interest in seeing a raised standard for executive compensation. The richest one percent of the population own more than half the stock in this country and the wealthiest tenth own more than 90 percent.

In its somewhat vague answer to the ills of

our society Mandal's essay departs from the realm of simply being morally devoid unto the area of being factually inept. It claims "the answer is not government entanglement in the economy, but a clear detachment from it." Mandal presents this in the same article in which he lauds the miracle of the Internet (somehow implying that it was a product of the laissez-faire free market he is so fond of). The Internet, like many of the high technologies we enjoy today, was a product of a huge governmental research program and was mostly promoted through the actions of institutions like DARPA (Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency).

If the objectivists are so concerned by the "nuisance" of the government and its involvement in tarnishing the wonderful vision of laissez-faire capitalism, perhaps they should spend less time attacking the system of social spending and legislation that is commonly referred to as welfare for the poor and start attacking the huge system of welfare for the rich in this country (commonly known as corporate welfare). An extensive study of transnational corporations conducted by Winfried Ruigrock and Rob Van Tulder found that "virtually all of the world's core firms have experienced a decisive influence from government policies and/or trade barriers on their strategy and competitive position" and "at least twenty companies in the 1993 Fortune 100 would not have survived at all as independent companies, if they had not been saved by their respective governments," by socializing losses or by simple state takeover when they were in trouble. In one form or another over \$450 billion is spent on corporate welfare every year. You will find few examples of departures away from laissez-faire as extreme as that.

Philippe Larochelle is a member of the Class of 2003.



Wednesday, February 2, 2000

7:00 pm

Room 10-250

Massachusetts Institute of Technology

BUILDING TOMORROW'S LEADING FIRMS

MIT \$50K Entrepreneurship Competition Spring Kick-Off



Keynote Speaker:

Joe Liemandt

Founder & CEO

Trilogy Software, Inc.

- Pick up entry material for the spring MIT \$50K Competition.
- Learn how to join the MIT \$50K Organizing Team.
- Light refreshments will be served.

<http://50k.mit.edu/>

FEATURES

Jackson Shares Vision of Diversity, Leadership

MIT Graduate and RPI President to Speak at MLK Breakfast

By Aaron D. Mihalik
and Katharyn Jeffreys
STAFF REPORTERS

Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute welcomed its new president Dr. Shirley A. Jackson '68 to campus this fall. Jackson is an MIT alum and the first African-American woman to graduate from MIT.

She brings with her a vision of leadership and diversity to improve the lives of RPI students. Her aspirations for the university not only apply to the current students and faculty but extends to the alumni and the Rensselaer community. She will bring this message to MIT on Thursday when she speaks at MIT's 26th Annual Celebration of the Life and Legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Jackson, in a recent interview, said her speech will "be about leadership, opportunity — we create opportunity; where we are in terms of science, technology and its impact on society, and what the importance is of creating opportunity for diverse groups, it requires going about things in a different way and looking at people in a different way."

This commitment to diversity and strong leadership extends to her professional life as well. She has had to determine "what is my responsibility as a leader of an institution and derivatively, what then do I think leadership means in other contexts. Depending upon the context and how one exercises leadership, I believe it makes a difference."

Historical view allows reflection

Jackson's education was framed by notable events in Dr. King's life. She was in high school when the March on Washington and King's "I have a dream" speech took place.

"In the spring of my senior year [at MIT] Martin Luther King was killed. So it was interesting, on the front end when I was still in high school, and on the back end when I was graduating. Things relating to Dr. King and the civil rights movement had a big impact," said Jackson.

Inspired by these national events, Jackson decided to stay at MIT to get her doctorate because she felt she could make a difference in the community. Jackson wanted "to make it more open and hospitable to minority students and women."

Her successes academically and professionally have led her to be recognized as both a talented scientist and leader, but also as the first African-American woman to do many things, including getting a degree (bachelors and PhD) from MIT and leading a national



Shirley Ann Jackson

research university.

Jackson reflected, "I know that I am introduced as or written up as the first African-American to do this or that. I used to react to that — I mean that is not the sum and total of what I am. I guess as I have gotten older I have gotten more philosophical and if it's motivating to some young person who might otherwise think he or she would not have the opportunity to do something extraordinary, then that's good."

At the same time there are doubts brought about by these associations. "It's the year 2000, and it's still the first African-American to do this or that, to the point that it is still worth talking about," said Jackson, "as opposed to 'she was chairman of the nuclear regulatory commission and she totally transformed the agency' or did research in this or that, it probably says something about where we are still at in our history in this country. And so on the one hand, it is a mark of progress, on the other, it shows us still how far we have to go."

Jackson relates this to the issues she faced as a student. "We are at a funny place in our history in this country — things are more global than

they have ever been — but at the same time we are still discussing some of the same old issues."

Goal of leadership and diversity at RPI

Jackson has taken her interest in promoting diversity and leadership seriously in her new role as president of RPI. "I think it is important that young people make a transition from the kind of focus they have when they are high school students to becoming informed participative adults," said Jackson. "And that means that they need to learn about the world, to reach out, to understand people of different cultures and even different parts of this country."

An awareness and appreciation of diversity will also help build stronger leaders. "You can't be a leader, especially in today's world, if you don't have a global view." Engaged student can defy the apathy which is evident on campuses across the country, Jackson said.

One of the solutions Jackson has developed at RPI is involving students in the community of Troy. "I think that more and more higher education institutions are finding that, if they are serious about diversity or even if they want to make a difference in terms of the

preparation of any of their students, they have to be engaged in K-12 education."

Jackson pointed out that although many university professors have relationships with companies or research laboratories in their summer months, high school teachers do not remain engaged in such a manner. "They sometimes go off in the summers and do things, but they don't relate to keeping an intellectual interest in their fields." This is one area in which she would like RPI to connect with the outside community.

Other changes imminent at RPI

In the six months since Jackson joined the RPI community, she has spent much time assessing "where it's challenges are and it's opportunities are; what it's good at and where we could strengthen."

Thus she has engaged the campus in a discussion she termed the "Rensselaer Plan" based on work done by the school's founder, and the fact that "Rensselaer has always had a strong focus on undergraduate teaching and involving undergraduates in the research and scholarship of faculty."

Jackson posed five questions to the RPI community probing the definition and importance of the intellectual core, the leadership role of RPI, and the commitments and sacrifices the school is willing to make.

After 20 sessions held around campus to discuss these issues, a plan was released by the committee leading the program. Jackson said that they are currently "revising the plan based on input from faculty, students, staff, alumni, and friends of the university."

In addition to improving research endeavors on campus, Jackson is looking to "improve the quality life on the campus, both in terms of the physical facilities as well as services."

MIT was a challenge and opportunity

Jackson said, "I've had challenges, but I've had a lot of opportunity and I've always tried to take advantage of it and not be overwhelmed by a hard time or bitterness."

There were only five African-American students in the MIT class of 1968; two of which were female. Jackson lived in McCormick Hall and spent most of her time during her freshman year concentrating on her studies.

Many of the students were unfriendly towards her. "I could tell you a lot of terrible stories," said Jackson. "I was spit on, I was shot at, I was chased."

Throughout her experience at MIT, she "always had a couple points of view," said Jackson. "I knew how much it meant to my parents for me to be at MIT ... [and] I felt that in spite of all the unfriendliness at the time, it still was an opportunity."

To distract her from the unfriendliness of a large part of the MIT community, Jackson spent

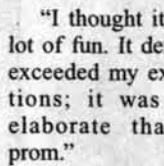
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Viewpoint

What did you think
of the Millennium Ball?

"I thought that the various activities like the tarot card readings and the dancing and the jazz band were pretty entertaining."

Jumaane Jeffries '02



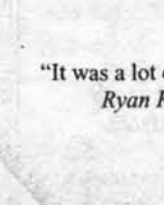
"I thought it was a lot of fun. It definitely exceeded my expectations; it was more elaborate than my prom."

Raymund Dantes '03



"I thought it was great, I was really impressed with the decorations and the amount of people who showed up."

Bonny M. Lee '03



"It was a lot of fun."

Ryan Rifkin G

Compiled by Susan Buchman

Modern Artists Come to MIT in Effort
to Create a Less Mechanical Dorm

Aileen Wu

STAFF REPORTER

On January 26th, a group of students and faculty members interviewed contemporary artist Dan Graham to discuss possibilities for works of art which will be displayed in the planned undergraduate dormitory on Vassar Street. Participants in this discussion included members of the Founders' Group, an organization that has been responding to the design of the new dorm for the past year.

Graham believes that artists are necessary to help with the design of the new building in order to counterbalance the work of the architects, who "solve all these problems making things more mechanical."

The artist was interested in making his project a living work of art with which students could interact. He took a tour of a few other MIT dormitories to get a feel for the campus. He remarked that he "liked the Alto," referring to the design of Baker House, a creation of the esteemed architect Alvar Alto.

Graham's plans for the new dorm were far from definite, leaving a lot of room for student and faculty input. He criticized MIT because it is "too mechanical" and hopes to create a more

relaxed, leisurely atmosphere. He wanted his artwork to transform the dorm into "a pleasurable setting," or perhaps even a "funhouse."

He suggested having a café area, acknowledging the late hours MIT students put in and a "simple outdoor terrace." In addition, he also suggested a yin-yang decoration with one side made up of a Zen garden and the other of water. During the discussion, he pointed out that he was used to incorporating the outdoors in his pieces.

Graham mentioned that the "lack of light and landscape in the interior" of the dorm might make it harder to work. However, he could integrate sunlight and other factors into his indoor pieces.

One of the students at the discussion brought, Catherine Foo '02 complained, "students generally say that the art on campus is ugly," which partly due to their lack of understanding of contemporary art and partly because of the lack of explanation that goes with the works.

A faculty member answered that "a series of exhibitions" would be held of the art in order to "elicit [the students'] opinions." Nevertheless, the atmosphere of the new dorm

will ultimately be determined by its future residents. When looking at dormitories such as East Campus, with its creative murals and decorations, it is apparent, as Jennifer Berk '01 mentioned, that living areas are "imprinted with student personalities."

Graham has previously worked with the Deia Foundation, an organization in New York City interested in displaying the works of aspiring artists. He aims to make his work "quasi-functional quasi-aesthetic." He specializes in using public spaces to display his work. For instance, he used the roof of the Deia Foundation building to create a "Cubical Cylindrical" artwork. The outer layer was constructed of two-sided glass that would reflect the city skyline, while the inner layer was built to enclose a coffee bar and a performance area.

Another one of his works includes "Two Adjacent Pavilions," which were set up in the Ford Foundation Building.

On February 15, from 2:30 to 4:30, another artist, Andrea Zittel, will come to MIT for a similar discussion. All who are interested are invited to attend. The artists will be asked to add one work to MIT's permanent collection and a piece for the living space.

Jackson Builds On Experiences at Institute

Story, from Page 7

time volunteering at the Boston City Hospital. "I felt that if I was given that opportunity and I still had my health, I should always try to do something for someone else," said Jackson. "[Volunteering] kept me away from thinking how hard it was for me — because in the end, I was still at MIT, I had a scholarship, and I was doing well."

At the Boston City Hospital, Jackson worked with young children with various ailments including orthopedic injuries, leukemia and in one instance a child "who was born with really no face. When you work with these kids ... it teaches you something about suffering."

While she was a student, the United States was engaged in the civil rights movement and the vietnam war. "All of these things, one degree or another, affected MIT and schools in Boston," said Jackson.

"There were a lot of marches, sit-ins, taking over of administrators offices. I never did any of that," said Jackson. "I've always been conservative in a way."

Although Jackson wasn't one to participate in some of the conventional forms of protest, she contributed a significant amount to change minority relations at MIT. She was one of the founders of the Black Student Union at MIT and this organization brought the demands of minority students to the MIT administration. These demands related to recruitment and retention of minority students.

As a result of these demands, the administration created the "Task force on Educational Opportunity."

"We used to meet every week for hours at a time hashing out the issues," said Jackson. "Some of these sessions were quite heated ... some of the African American students were quite upset by how they were being treated," said Jackson. "I always would just talk — I never believed in just screaming and shouting. I would fight for what I thought was the right thing to do."

The result of these sessions are quite impressive. The following year 58 African-American students were accepted to MIT and

a prefreshman program for minority students was created. The program, named "Project Interphase," is still around today and enrolls one-third of the incoming minority students for a seven week program during the summer.

Life after MIT proves fruitful

After receiving her doctorate in physics in 1973, Jackson left to work at Fermi Lab for two years. Between those two years she went to the European Center for Nuclear Research in Geneva Switzerland. "I really enjoyed being in Switzerland and thought about not coming back." However family ties and American nationalism brought her home.

Jackson then began a new track in her life. "Bell labs was hiring if they thought you were smart enough. So I went and gave a speech on Neutrino reactions, and they gave me a job"

At the same time, her interests did not lie only in the laboratory. "I was always interested in science, technology and public policy, so I had a number of appointments in the state of New Jersey" These positions included the Commissioner of the New Jersey Commission on Science and Technology, as well as appointments to the Governor's Economic Conference and Governor's Economic Master Plan Commission

Later she served on several corporate boards, including the Utility Public Service Enterprise Group, "which owned at that time five nuclear power plants." Jackson chaired nuclear oversight committee as a member of the board

"In some ways that played into my background of high-energy physics because essentially high-energy physics is an outgrowth of nuclear physics."

She also became involved with the Institute of Nuclear Power Operations after the Three Mile Island incident.

"Then one day in 1994 I got a from the White House" asking her to send them her resume. Jackson received a presidential appointment to be on the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, with the intent that she would assume the role of chairman. Her appointment was finally confirmed in April 1995.

IAP Activity of the Week

MIT Hemp Coalition

Aaron D. Mihalik

ASSOCIATE FEATURES EDITOR

MIT Hemp Coalition, now in its second year of existence, sponsored a water pipe design competition during this Independent Activities Period. The class, entitled "For Tobacco Use Only: Topics in Advanced Water Filtration" was surrounded in controversy because of the illegal activities associated with water pipes and other drug paraphernalia.

Getting the class approved by the IAP Policy Committee "wasn't as easy as other classes that tried to get through," said Justin A. Kent '00, MITHC president.

At first the IAP Policy Committee was "concerned with the legality, for our own protection," said Kent. "But they didn't want to stop us from running a class as long as it's legit."

To make sure that the class did not run into any legal problems, the coordinators put an emphasis against promoting the use of illegal drugs.

"You can't say that you are going to use these pipes for smoking things that are illegal," said Kent. "We don't want to get ourselves in trouble and we don't want to get anyone taking this class in trouble."

Engineers produce unique designs

The designs created by the participants push the limits of water pipe engineering. "This is MIT and it is a design competition," said Kent. "We want some engineering to go into it."

The entries were judged in three different categories: aesthetics, usability and creativity. A winner was selected in each category and an overall winner was selected.

Overall, ten entries were submitted to the contest. Some of these were "designs I'd never dreamed of," said Kent. "They were pretty off the wall." Some used "crazy physics" to draw smoke through the apparatus. Also, one group made a water pipe out of an institute phone.

Entries were judged by Chris Simunek from *High Times* magazine. Students from MITHC met him at the freedom rally and "ran they idea past him ... and he was very excited" to judge, said Kent. Simunek will publish pictures of the entries in a future issue of *High Times* magazine.

MITHC raises public awareness

MITHC is a chapter of the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws. MITHC sponsors several events during the year to raise awareness of their issues.

"The whole point of running this class, even through it's fun, is to raise awareness of important issues," said Kent.

Past MITHC events include a display in Lobby 7 during last term. The exhibit was entitled "Shattered Lives: Casualties of the Drugwar." The display was to make students aware of prison costs and other aspects of the war on drugs.

"You can't incarcerate your way out of a problem, and that is what [legislators] are trying to do," said Kent.

Besides being active in the MIT community, MITHC has participated in several regional activities.

Last September MITHC helped out with the annual Freedom Rally in the Boston Commons. The rally is sponsored by Massachusetts Cannabis Coalition. MITHC collected signatures for a marijuana deregulation initiative.

Also, MITHC has been involved in try to repeal the Higher Education Act of 1998. This act delays or even denies federal financial aid to drug offenders.

MITHC receives its funding through bake sales, t-shirt sales, an annual April 20 barbeque and funding from the ASA.

TechCalendar

TechCalendar appears in each issue of *The Tech* and features events for members of the MIT community. *The Tech* makes no guarantees as to the accuracy of this information, and *The Tech* shall not be held liable for any losses, including, but not limited to, damages resulting from attendance of an event. Contact information for all events is available from the TechCalendar web page.

Visit and add events to TechCalendar online at <http://tech-calendar.mit.edu>

Tuesday's Events

12:00 p.m. — **Exploring Errors: Methodology in 19th Century Microscopy**, Jutta Schickore, **Dibner Institute Postdoctoral Fellow**. If you plan to attend, call 253-6989 or send an email: dibner@mit.edu. Open. More info: Call Trudy Kontoff at 253-6989. Email kontoff@mit.edu. Rm E56-100.

2:30 p.m. — **On the Nonlinear Stability of Fluid Flows: Arnold's Approach**, Dr. Vladimir A. Vladimirov, **Dept. of Math., Hong Kong University of Science and Technology**. Refreshments will be served following the seminar in Room 2-349. Open. More info: Call John Bush at 253-4387. Email bush@math.mit.edu. Rm 2-338.

6:30 p.m. — **"Living and Nature: Mies van der Rohe and the German Landscape Tradition."**, Barry Bergdoll, **Columbia University/Visiting Professor, MIT**. Open. More info: Call at 253-7791. Rm 10-250.

Wednesday's Events

12:00 p.m. — **Non-Combatant Operations: When Getting Out is No Fun**, Colonel David Winn, **USMC Fellow, MIT Security Studies Program**. Bag lunch; refreshments will be provided. Open. More info: Call Lynne Levine at 253-0133. Email llevine@mit.edu. Web: <http://web.mit.edu/ssp/>. Rm E38-615.

12:10 p.m. — **NAO forced propagating SST anomalies in the North Atlantic**, Martin Visbeck, **Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory**. Open. More info: Call Markus Jochum at 3-2922. Email mjochum@mit.edu. Web: <http://www.mit.edu/~mjochum/sack.html>. Rm 54-915.

4:30 p.m. — **Emotional Intelligence and Personality**, John D. Mayer, **University of New Hampshire, Department of Psychology**. Refreshments at 4:15. Open. More info: Call Alicia Peyrano at 253-0905. Email a Peyrano@media.mit.edu. Media Lab, E15-064 (Bartos Theatre).

Thursday's Events

4:15 p.m. — **HOMOGENOUS CHARGE COMPRESSION IGNITION (HCCI): A NEW ENGINE COMBUSTION CONCEPT**, Professor John B. Heywood, **Director, Sloan Automotive Lab**. Refreshments served at 4:00 before the seminar. Open. More info: Call Susan Lutin at 253-4529. Email susanl@mit.edu. Web: <http://engine.mit.edu>. Rm 31-161.

7:00 p.m. — **Words and Rules: The Ingredients of Language**, Steven Pinker, **Professor, Director of the Center for Cognitive Science, MIT**. Pinker's latest book is described by Michael Gazzaniga as "...a riveting story...I couldn't put it down." Sponsored by authors@mit - a project of MIT Libraries and The MIT press Bookstore. Open. More info: Call The MIT Press Bookstore at 3-5249. Email authors@mit.edu. Web: <http://mitpress.mit.edu/bookstore/events/>. Rm 10-25.

12:00 p.m. — **MIT Chapel Concert: Sartory Quintet**. Barbara Englesberg, violin; Edward Wu, violin; Francis Grimes, viola; Joel Cohen, cello; Robert Ward, guitar. Boccherini's Quintet No. 1 in D Major; Castelnovo-Tedesco's Quintette, Op. 143. Admission 0. MIT Chapel. Sponsor: Office of the Arts.

5:00 - 7:00 p.m. — **Opening Reception—"In Time: Images of Plum Island by Emily Corbats"**. Black and white photographs depicting the land and sea of Plum Island. Exhibit up Feb 3-March 15. Admission 0. The Dean's Gallery E52-466. Sponsor: Office of the Arts.

7:00 p.m. — **"Contemporary Chinese Art" and "Chinese Women's Art"**. Slide show/talk presented by top Chinese art critics, Mr. Xianting Li ("Contemporary Chinese Art") and Ms. Wen Liao ("Chinese Women's Art"). Admission 0. Rm 6-120. Sponsor: Office of the Arts.

7:00 p.m. — Lecture/slide show presented by top Chinese art critics: Xianting Li ("Contemporary Chinese Art") and Ms. Wen Liao ("Chinese Women's Art"). Admission 0. Rm 6-120. Sponsor: Office of the Arts.

7:00 - 8:30 p.m. — **"Ethnographic Museum of Irrelevant Races"**. Dramashop production directed by Artist in Residence Guillermo Gúmez-Peña who, with students, will create an original theater piece that explores the interface between performance, cultural identity and new technologies. Admission 0. Kresge Little Theater. Sponsor: Office of the Arts.

7:45 - 10:00 p.m. — **MIT Women's Chorale First Rehearsal**. Rehearsals every Thursday. All women in the MIT community are welcome. Admission 0. Rm 10-340 Emma Rogers Rm. Sponsor: Office of the Arts.

8:00 p.m. — **"Chess."** The Cold War musical written by Benny Andersson - Tim Rice - Bjorn Ulvaeus. \$9; \$8 MIT faculty and staff, senior citizens, other students; \$6 MIT/Wellesley students. Admission 6.00. Sala de Puerto Rico. Sponsor: Office of the Arts.

9:00 - 10:30 p.m. — **"Ethnographic Museum of Irrelevant Races"**. Dramashop production directed by Artist in Residence Guillermo Gúmez-Peña who, with students, will create an original theater piece that explores the interface between performance, cultural identity and new technologies. Admission 0. Kresge Little Theater. Sponsor: Office of the Arts.

Friday's Events

2:30 p.m. — **MacVicar Day, MacVicar Faculty Fellows, Provost's Office**. "Where's the Rat in Undergrad Education?" MacVicar lecture - Prof. Edie Goldenberg, U. Michigan. Margaret MacVicar film, teaching & UROP demos, reception. 6-120, 2:30. All welcome. Open. More info: Call Rosalind Wood at 253-3036. Email rosalind@mit.edu. Web: <http://web.mit.edu/provost/macvicar>. Rm 6-120.

4:00 - 6:00 p.m. — **LBGTF Ice Cream Social**. Come have cookies and ice cream and chat with Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgendered, and Friendly (LBGTF) faculty, staff, and students. 14E-306. Sponsor: LGBT Issues Group.

7:00 - 8:30 p.m. — **"Ethnographic Museum of Irrelevant Races"**. Dramashop production directed by Artist in Residence Guillermo Gúmez-Peña who, with students, will create an original theater piece that explores the interface between performance, cultural identity and new technologies. Admission 0. Kresge Little Theater. Sponsor: Office of the Arts.

8:00 - 10:00 p.m. — **Jazz Homecoming**. Black History Month 2000 event featuring Fertile Ground, MIT's Festival Jazz Ensemble & Movements in Time. Free, but donations for a community service fund accepted. Admission 0. Kresge Auditorium. Sponsor: Office of the Arts.

8:00 p.m. — **"Chess."** The Cold War musical written by Benny Andersson - Tim Rice - Bjorn Ulvaeus. \$9; \$8 MIT faculty and staff, senior citizens, other students; \$6 MIT/Wellesley students. Admission 6.00. Sala de Puerto Rico. Sponsor: Office of the Arts.

8:00 - 10:30 p.m. — **a Jazz Homecoming**, presenting Fertile Ground for Black History Month 2000. The group blends jazz, R&B, and world styles in songs like "Black Sunshine" and "Ghetto Butterfly". A must see for all MIT community members. Kresge Auditorium. Sponsor: Groove Phi Groove Social Fellowship, Inc.

9:00 - 10:30 p.m. — **"Ethnographic Museum of Irrelevant Races"**. Dramashop production directed by Artist in Residence Guillermo Gúmez-Peña who, with students, will create an original theater piece that explores the interface between performance, cultural identity and new technologies. Admission 0. Kresge Little Theater. Sponsor: Office of the Arts.

Coop Gets Textbook Competition

By Katharyn Jeffreys
FEATURES EDITOR

As the term begins, students are once again faced with the chore of purchasing textbooks. In the past year the Coop has seen strong competition from online bookstores who have assaulted students with gimmicks to bring to light the lower prices available online. However, the Coop also several new foes in the market which are not highly advertised, several of which were created by MIT graduates.

MITswap.com <<http://mitswap.com>> was created by Marc Rosen '02 as "a place where students could list their own used books, and then browse the listings of other used books." The page is at a dot com address due to the MIT rules of use which have prohibited such ventures in the past.

MITswap provides books at the lowest cost of any online source, but does not yet have a very wide selection. Many online bookstores use the convenience of delivery to students' doors as a selling point, a feature not available at MITswap. Rather, students trading books must arrange to meet and exchange cash for books. This is made easier by links providing information found when fingering someone on Athena.

Students can choose to buy a book based on condition, cost, and location, all of which are displayed on the site. Another benefit to the site is that it is organized by course number.

Rosen, who is not profiting from the site, has said that he has "lost about \$500 so far on domain names, web hosting, database servers, and the like. But I don't care. I will save more than \$500 bucks on books in my remaining two and a half years here."

Big name bookstores offer low prices

When MITswap fails to provide a low cost match, Bigwords.com might be a good alter-

native. The site is rare among online book-sellers because of its buyback program which allows students to buy and sell used textbooks with the website serving as the middleman. Unlike MITswap however, Bigwords.com is a for-profit company and buys low and sells high. Prices are comparable to The Coop, and availability is limited.

In addition to used books, Bigwords.com sells new books at low prices. It is able to do both, according to John Bates, an executive at Bigwords.com, because "we don't have a bunch of real world bookstores to worry about." The company buys from several distributors. Companies such as ebooks.com, which is run by Barnes and Noble, and VarsityBooks.com, which has an exclusive agreement with book distributor Baker and Taylor,

are somewhat restricted in their ability to expand availability and keep prices low.

Several price comparison web sites have been established. One, created by a group of MIT and Harvard alums and located at <<http://limespot.com>> is organized by courses and allows students to compare book prices from five online bookstores, taking into account shipping costs and availability, which vary among sellers.

In the fall The Coop introduced a price matching program which allowed students to bring a printout of an internet offer, including the price, ISBN, and guarantee that the book was in stock and ready to ship. In addition The Coop offers personal service and convenient returns. They are also available online at <<http://thecoop.com>>

Textbook Cost Comparison Researching Online Retailers Saves Money

Structure and Interpretation of Computer Programs • 6.001

	Coop	Bigwords.com	VarsityBooks.com	Amazon.com	MITSwap.com
NEW	\$76.75	\$66.22	\$65.08	\$76.56	n/a
USED	\$57.45	\$57.42	n/a	n/a	\$40.00

Life: The Science of Biology • 7.01x

	Coop	Bigwords.com	VarsityBooks.com	Amazon.com	MITSwap.com
NEW	\$93.25	\$85.68	\$80.88	\$95.15	n/a
USED	\$69.80	\$74.29	n/a	n/a	\$45.00

Microeconomics • 14.01

	Coop	Bigwords.com	VarsityBooks.com	Amazon.com	MITSwap.com
NEW	\$95.25	\$84.16	\$82.71	\$127.00	n/a
USED	\$71.35	\$67.87	n/a	n/a	\$35.00

Additional Shipping Costs:

Bigwords.com: Free shipping on purchases over \$35

VarsityBooks.com: \$4.95 flat shipping fee

Amazon.com: \$3 shipping fee plus 99¢ per book

Do It With Emotion

This column addresses questions and topics of all kinds concerning sex and relationships. Dr. Do It and Ms. Emotion do not claim to be experts in the fields but have been "around the block" a few times and have seen their share of situations involving relationships and sex. The opinions of Dr. Do It and Ms. Emotion do not necessarily reflect the opinions of this publication.

Dear Dr. Do It and Ms. Emotion,

I have a girlfriend who takes a long time to orgasm when we have sex. Almost invariably, I reach orgasm sooner than she does. I've tried distracting myself by thinking about other things, changing positions, changing rhythms, everything I can think of, but nothing works. I'm not sure what to do. Please help.

— Can't Hold Out Long Enough

Ms. Emotion says: Often it can take longer for a woman than a man to become aroused during foreplay. If your girlfriend is not fully aroused prior to penetration, then it will probably take her longer to reach orgasm during intercourse. I suggest spending more time on foreplay. Learn what she likes and what turns her on. Talk with her about this (she probably knows of things that make her feel good that you might not be aware of) and experiment together.

Dr. Do It says: Yes, experimentation can be a lot of fun. If the two of you are really interested in getting a little frisky you can always try to introduce a vibrator or other sex toy that you can use to get her more aroused before intercourse. You can also find desensitizing creams at the local drug store in the prophylactics section. They are designed specifically for the purpose of lessening your arousal and therefore extending your time to orgasm.

Dear Do It and Emotion,

I'm a male student and have a crush on one of my male friends who I think is heterosexual. I've seen him go on dates with females. I'm not sure but he might actually be bisexual. However, I don't know how to approach him, and I don't want to ruin my friendship with him or make him uncomfortable if he actually is heterosexual. What should I do?

— Emotionally Constrained

Do It and Emotion say: Whenever one of two friends becomes interested in the other friend it becomes a sticky situation. If he's not interested in you, or if he's not bisexual, then you might get hurt. Once you're prepared for this possibility I think you should talk to him about how you feel. If he's a true friend then your honesty will not hurt the friendship, but will strengthen it. Even if he can't return your feelings, he'll probably be flattered. Also, you probably shouldn't flirt with him or attempt to initiate anything romantic or sexual until you've talked things over.

Dear Dr. Do It and Ms. Emotion,

A few months ago I planned to go on a trip with a bunch of my friends, including my then-boyfriend. Since then, I broke up with my boyfriend, and am now going out with one of the other guys who is going on the trip. I haven't told my ex that I'm dating our mutual friend, though — it's sort of a secret. The trip happens in a couple of weeks. What should I do? Should I keep it a secret throughout the trip? Should I tell my ex before the trip? Wouldn't that make things harder?

— Gotta Keep Em Separated

Ms. Emotion says: Well Ms. Separated, why are you keeping it a secret? Since the three of you are in the same circle of friends, your ex is bound to find out sooner or later. It would probably be best for you to tell him rather than him finding out second-hand. So although he may be hurt when you tell him, it is better than being hurt in addition to being deceived by his friends. This doesn't mean that the trip may not be somewhat difficult emotionally for him or you, but that is up to each of you to decide, and it should hopefully be a lot easier when everything is out in the open.

Dr. Do It: I agree, and you never know, if you play your cards right you might even get a threesome out of it. Just joking of course.

If you have any questions for Dr. Do It and Ms. Emotion or topics you would like them to discuss, please send them to <advice@the-tech.mit.edu>. Questions will be published anonymously.

This Week In MIT History

A lottery was held this week in 1970 to determine the first residents of the then newly constructed MacGregor house. Residents were selected from those who lived in Burton House at the time. A previously set quota limited each class to sending 81 members to the new dorm. Other Burton residents were moved to apartments in Allston and the Hamilton House Hotel.

An unexpected benefit to the lottery: it was conducted by "two lithe and lovely undressed ladies ... wearing nothing but a smile and a vitally placed towel around their waists."

'A Hero for Daisy' Title IX revisited in new film

Katherine H. Allen
STAFF REPORTER

Despite the prevalence of female athletics today, women's participation in intercollegiate sports, is largely a phenomenon of the last quarter of the 20th century. Since the adoption of Title IX legislation in 1972, women's participation in intercollegiate sports has more than tripled. However, not all of these new athletes were well-received in their communities.


At many universities, and here at MIT, athletic discrimination was (and sometimes still is) a significant problem. The struggle to create and maintain women's sports programs involved lawsuits, protests, and many groundbreaking student athletes who were willing to endure the negative publicity and mental anguish of fighting for equal treatment.

One of the most dramatic of these battles involved the women's crew team at Yale. The women, including twice-Olympian Chris

Ernst, stormed the Yale athletic director's office in 1976 and stripped off their clothes to protest a lack of locker room and shower facilities revealing "Title IX" written on their backs. A New York Times reporter was in the office at the time, so the story was covered by major news outlets across the country.

"A Hero For Daisy," a documentary about the Yale women's crew protest, is screening Wednesday, February 2 at 7:30 p.m. in E15-070. After the film there will be a panel discussion of MIT Athlete Alums and Faculty, including Professor Sheila Widnall '60 and Cady Coleman '85 about the evolution of women's sports at MIT.

The event is co-sponsored by the MIT Program in Women's Studies, the MIT Athletic Department, the Webster-Mauze Fund in the Provost's Office, and the Dean of Student Life. More information on the film is available at <<http://www.aherofordaisy.com/daisy.html>>



Join the

Revolution

National Instruments, a world leader in computer-based measurement and automation, is revolutionizing the way engineers and scientists use PCs to monitor and understand the world around us. We're building the future at National Instruments, and we want you on our team!

Tau Beta Pi Career Fair - Friday in Rockwell Cage
Interviews 2/14/2000 - Submit resumes at jobtrak.com

 **NATIONAL INSTRUMENTS** / www.ni.com

Tau Beta Pi Career Fair 2000

co-sponsored by **e-MIT & BMES**

**Rockwell Cage
February 4, 2000
10:00 am - 3:30 pm
<http://web.mit.edu/tbp/careerfair/>**

Career Fair Kick-Off Event

*Key Ways For Making a Positive First Impression:
The Art of Mixing and Mingling Practicum*
sponsored by CollegeHire.com

Wednesday, February 2, 2000

6:30pm, Room 6-120

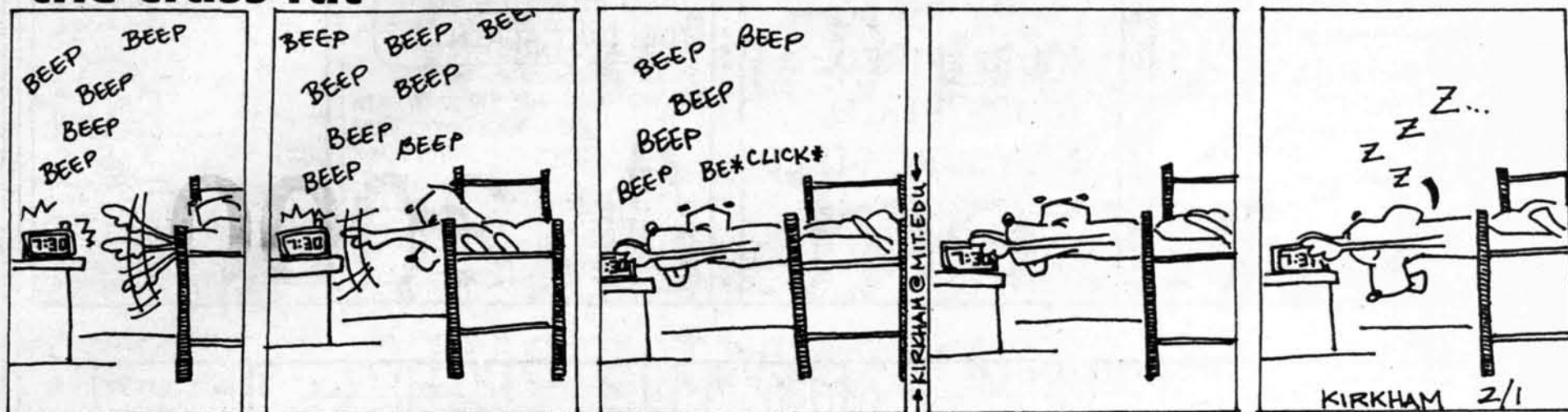
Reserve your seat at:

<http://web.mit.edu/tbp/careerfair/pages/events.html>

FUN PAGES

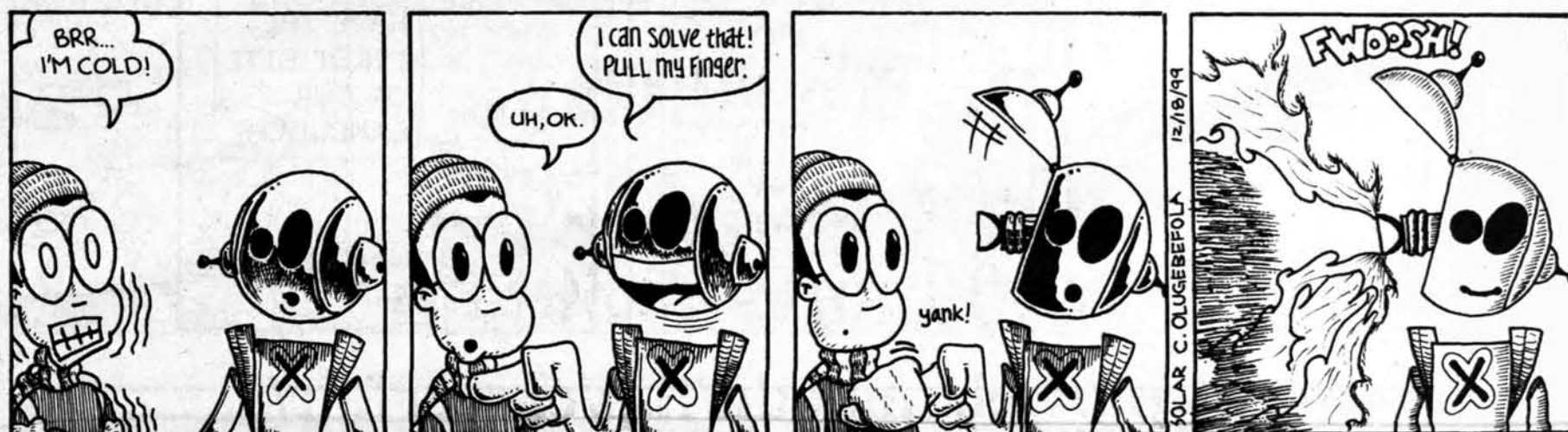
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11

the crass rat



Xippo's Counselor

SOLAR C. OLUGBEFOLA



Fun With Clip Art
Aaron Isaksen



"Hey Sally! I'll give you 500 bucks if you can pick up the TV with those chopsticks."

Fun With Clip Art
Aaron Isaksen



"Hey Mom! This is the episode where Squirtle beats the crap out of that wussy-assed Pikachu."

Fun With Clip Art
Aaron Isaksen



"Ok Mom, let's comprimse. We'll watch pornos AFTER we finish the Lion King."

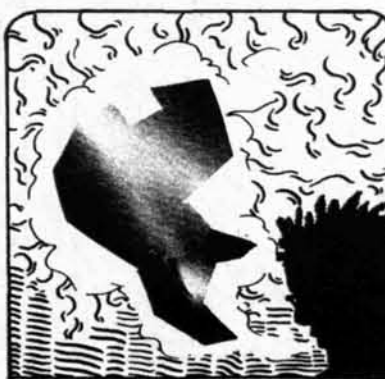
reader's warning: the following drawn strip is only sometimes funny, thus the title...

O C C A S
I O N A L
C O M I C

So here i am, waiting for the streetlight to change. and it doesn't matter how long i have to wait, i just know that the combination of the words "why", "are", "we", "going", and "out?" can have powerful effects on your psyche when you are treading on thin ice.



people do not often fall into cracks in thin ice, but they do happen to slip and fall on their butts a lot. she said i needed to sort out some things, and to leave her alone. i need to sort out some things right here at this street light.



take another breath

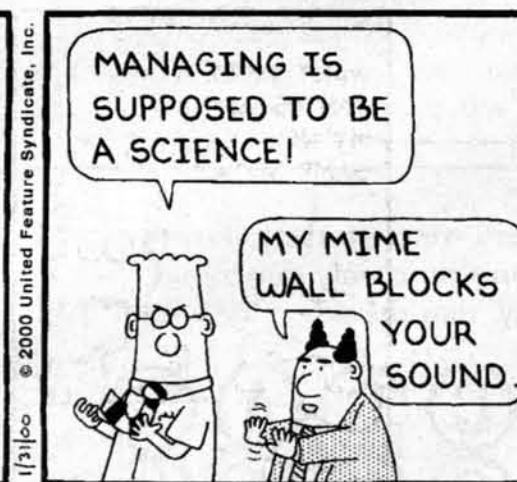
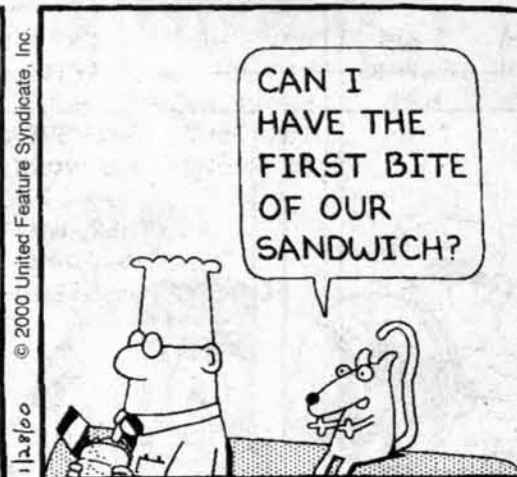


the world is still here



Dilbert®

by Scott Adams



FoxTrot by Bill Amend

JASON, I TOLD YOU TO STAY AWAY FROM ME!

AND I AM.

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?!

THIS IS BUT A HOLOGRAPHIC PROJECTION OF ME. THE REAL ME IS NOWHERE NEAR YOU. SEE FOR YOURSELF... YOU CAN PASS YOUR HAND RIGHT THROUGH ME.

WHAP!

HA!

PAIGE, I TOLD YOU — HIT YOUR BROTHER ONE MORE TIME AND YOU'RE GROUNDED.

BUT... BUT... MOM!

HA HA!

PETER, I WISH YOU'D HELP YOUR FATHER.

I AM HELPING HIM, MOM.

HOW? HE'S OUTSIDE SHOVELING TWO FEET OF SNOW!

EXACTLY. AFTER AN HOUR OF BACKBREAKING WORK IN 10-DEGREE WEATHER, WHAT'S THE MAN GOING TO BE IN MAJOR NEED OF?

A NICE, WARMED-UP SOFA CUSHION WITH A NICE, WARMED-UP TV REMOTE.

LET'S GO. OUTSIDE.

MOM, I'M SERIOUS — FEEL THE HEAT ON THESE BUTTONS!

A LITTLE BREAD... A LITTLE MAYO... A LITTLE HAM... A LITTLE TURKEY...

A LITTLE ROAST BEEF... A LITTLE SALAMI... A LITTLE CHEESE...

A LITTLE MORE HAM... A LITTLE MORE TURKEY... A LITTLE MORE ROAST BEEF...

THE LEANING TOWER OF PETER.

PAIGE, PLEASE PASS THE SALT AND A LADDER.

WANT TO BE A CONTESTANT ON MY NEW GAME SHOW?

IT'S CALLED "I WANT TO BE A MILLIONAIRE."

SOUNDS LIKE FUN. SURE.

IS THAT YOUR FINAL ANSWER?

YOU MAKE IT SOUND LIKE I JUST BLEW IT.

TRUST ME, THIS IS THAT DAD. I SHOW MY HAS NO CHECK-RULES. STUDIO BOOK AUDIENCE, YOU'RE BY THE HOLD-ING?

BEFORE WE BEGIN PLAYING "I WANT TO BE A MILLIONAIRE," LET'S MEET OUR FIRST CONTESTANT, ROGER FOX.

TELL US A LITTLE BIT ABOUT YOURSELF, ROGER.

WELL, LET'S SEE... I HAVE THREE KIDS... I WAS AN ENGLISH MAJOR IN COLLEGE...

THAT'S ENOUGH FOR NOW, ROGER. THANK YOU.

OUR FIRST QUESTION COMES FROM THE ANNALS OF ADVANCED MATHEMATICS...

HEY! YOU JUST SWITCHED THE CARDS!

POLICE LOG

The following incidents were reported to the MIT Campus Police between December 28 - January 30. This summary contains most incidents reported to Campus Police but does not include incidents such as: medical shuttles, ambulance transfers, false alarms, general service calls, etc.

Dec. 28: Bldg. 56, malicious damage to cabinet; Bldg. 6, suspicious mail, same checked out okay; Student Center, keys reported lost, same found; Bldg. 35, two suspicious persons stopped.

Dec. 29: Bldg. 3, report of alarms and weird noises in hallway; Albany Garage, homeless person, same assisted to shelter; Baker, report of suspicious person, same checks out okay.

Dec. 30: Baker, student report using credit card on-line and discovered it had been used for several hundred dollars; Bldg. 16, a clock, camera and a credit card stolen, over \$1,000 unauthorized charges; Westgate, two students report unauthorized use of credit card for over \$1,000 each; Harvard Bridge, assist State Police with vehicle vs bicyclist accident; Amherst St. check of vehicle, same checks out okay; Bldg. W71, suspicious activity, all checks out okay.

Dec. 31: Westgate Lot, report of vehicle stolen although same had been towed in Brookline for illegal parking and never stolen; Memorial Dr., suspicious activity; Bldg. 18, suspicious package; Mass. Ave. and Memorial Dr., check and inquiry of person.

Jan. 1: Cambridge, Alpha Tau Omega, Allison Gunther of 23 Pear Hill Road, Roxbury MA, Christopher Roma of 244 Bellevue Street, Boston, David Sullivan of 40 Eliot Street, Boston, and Kent Gunther of 82 Rowe Street, Roslindale, all unaffiliated, arrested for disorderly conduct and trespassing; Bldg. E34, graffiti; Burton, camera stolen, \$400; Albany Garage, emergency telephone hang-up, area checked al okay.

Jan. 2: Kresge Lot, 1) vehicle plate stolen; 2) stolen vehicle plate recovered on a another car; Bldg. NW30, check and inquiry of individual.

Jan. 3: Bldg. 7, past larceny of VCR and copier, \$500; Ames St. assist Cambridge Police with suspicious vehicle; Bldg. 68, suspicious person looking through vehicles.

Jan. 4: Bldg. 7, malicious damage to locks; Bldg. E25, software stolen \$90.

Jan. 5: Audrey St. assist Cambridge Police with a disagreement between passenger and taxi driver; Bldg. NW14, homeless person assisted to shelter; rear of Bldg. W59, check and inquiry of individual, issued trespass warning; Westgate report of person soliciting; Ash-down, report of several hang-up calls from emergency telephone, unable to locate anyone.

Jan. 6: Bldg. 2, past larceny of CD Player, \$150; #6 Club, number plate stolen, this was recovered on January 2 in Kresge lot; Bldg. NW12, homeless person, assisted to shelter; assist Cambridge Police, report of 911 hang-up, no cause found.

Jan. 7: Front Street, report of two people breaking a car window; Bldg. E23, Brima Wurie Jr, 51, of Spedwell Street, Dorchester MA, taken into custody on an outstanding warrant; Bldg. 13, vandalism to rest room; Bldg. E23, report of suspicious persons, same checked out okay.

Jan. 8: Boston University Bridge, assist Cambridge and BU Police with a foot chase of two individuals; Boston, Nu Delta, noise complaint; Student Center, check and inquiry of individual; Amherst Alley, check and inquiry of individual.

Jan. 9: #6 Club, suspicious person; Student Center, 1) report of kids riding bikes on plaza, gone upon CP's arrival; 2) cash stolen \$12; Bldg. 4, check and inquiry; Sloan Lot, pager reported lost, later recovered; Westgate Lot, car vandalized; Mass. Ave. solicitor bothered person, solicitor no longer in area.

Jan. 10: Westgate Lot, 1) '87 SAAB stolen; 2) vehicle stolen in Mattapan recovered; Bldg. 26, wallet and CD player stolen \$36; Bldg. 39, homeless person, assisted to shelter.

Jan. 11: Bexley, harassing phone calls; Bldg. 5, laptop computer stolen, \$2,418; Burton, report of suspicious person; Memorial Dr. assist Cambridge Police with minor motor vehicle accident vs pedestrian; Vassar St. check and inquiry.

Jan. 12: Bldg. E19, suspicious person, same checked out okay; East Campus, assault and battery by persons known to each other; Bldg. N52, homeless person, same assisted to shelter; Westgate, harassing phone calls; East Campus, empty Liquid Nitrogen tank found; New House, wallet stolen \$30 and fraudulent use of credit card; Bldg. 3, fraudulent use of credit

card; MacGregor, harassing phone call.

Jan. 13: West Garage, report of tires vandalized; Amherst Alley, noise complaint, no cause found; W31, report of past sexual assault; Mass & Memorial, assist Cambridge Police with minor vehicle accident; Senior House, report of person on roof throwing snowballs.

Jan. 14: Eastgate, annoying phone calls; Bldg. 4, report of suspicious person, same distributing newspapers; Bldg. 4, laptop computer stolen \$3,200.

Jan. 15: Hayden Library, checkbook stolen; Bldg. 56, suspicious person.

Jan. 16: Bldg. N52, fire causing minor damage; Bldg. 54, sprinkler head froze causing pipe to burst causing water damage; Bldg. 7, water pipe burst, no interior damage; Bldg. N52, suspicious activity, same checks out okay; Bldg. 14, wallet stolen, \$500 cash; Bldg. W71, missing student; Bldg. 42, oil spill; Edgerton House, Wayne Tropeano of 15 Sumner Ave, Wakefield MA, placed under arrest for possession of cocaine; SafeRide van, a shopping cart was stolen from van, \$20.

Jan. 17: Bldg. 6, tools stolen \$1,100; Bldg. 56, sections of metal roofing flew off; LaVerde's, John R. Lahey of 104 Adams St., Waltham MA, arrested for shoplifting and other related charges.

Jan. 18: Bldg. 66, report of suspicious persons, same checked out okay; Student Center, check and inquiry; Bldg. 7, graffiti; Vassar Street @ Bldg. W59, water main break; Bldg. NW12, report of suspicious activity; Bldg. E25, laptop computer stolen \$3,600; Bldg. 50, Senior House and E23 all had water pipe breaks causing damage; Main and Ames Street, assist Cambridge Police with pedestrian struck by vehicle.

Jan. 20: Bldg. 6, CD player stolen, \$125; Charles River, assist State Police with two person walking on ice; Bldg. E23, under age intoxicated student, alcohol citation issued for consumption of alcohol; Main Lot, suspicious vehicle.

Jan. 21: East Campus, notify student to call home; Student Center, homeless person sleeping in bathroom; Walker, annoying phone calls; West Lot, attempted break into a Toyota; Bldg. E17, report of a suspicious person, one hour passed between seeing him and report; Bldg. E25 report of cash stolen, person left before officer arrived; Bldg. 24, check and inquiry, same checked out okay; Bldg. 14, report of homeless person, gone upon officers arrival; MacGregor, noise complaint.

Jan. 22: Boston, Lambda Chi Alpha, two noise complaints; Bldg. 54, 1) report of a piece of pipe stolen, same later recovered; 2) wallet stolen, later recovered minus \$1; Bldg. 10, suspicious activity; Burton, report of suspicious person; Eastgate, report of solicitors.

Jan. 23: Bldg. 13, report of suspicious activity; Student Center, report of person asleep in elevator; assist State Police, report of vehicle accident on Longfellow Bridge; Baker, wallet stolen from room while roommate was asleep in room, \$60 cash and credit cards; Bldg. W33, skis stolen \$1,500; Charles River, report of persons on ice; Bldg. 54, suspicious activity.

Jan. 24: Bldg. 5, suspicious person; Bldg. 39, check and inquiry; Amherst Alley, check and inquiry of vehicle.

Jan. 25: New House, intoxicated underage person issued alcohol citation; West Annex lot, car window smashed; Baker, suspicious activity; Amherst Alley, ATO reports of persons throwing snow balls.

Jan. 26: MacGregor, 1) room entered and occupant was awakened by noise and observed a suspicious person leaving her room with her bag; 2) report of suspicious person; Bldg. E60, computer stolen \$2,000; Bldg. E38, suspicious activity; Senior House, report of persons throwing snow balls.

Jan. 27: Boston, Lambda Chi Alpha, noise complaint; Bldg. 54, hack in elevator; Bldg. 7, attempted larceny of library books; Lot 29, check and inquiry of vehicle.

Jan. 28: Bldg. E19, report of suspicious person; Bldg. E52, 2 laptops and CD ROM stolen \$10,200; Bldg. 24, assist Cambridge Police with 911 hang-up, no cause found; Student Center, candy, pens and other items stolen \$135; assist Cambridge Police Whitehead Institute, cell phone stolen; assist State Police, Memorial Dr. report of vehicle broken down; MacGregor, fraudulent use of a credit card; Tang Hall, noise complaint.

Jan. 29: Westgate lowrise, complaint of car alarm sounding; Bldg. 16, past report of past suspicious activity; Bldg. 35, report of person sleeping in room.



Something to
feel good about.

United Way

February, 1	Stratified Game
February, 8	Pair Game, sectionally rated
February, 15	Team Game
February, 22	Handicap
February, 29	Club Championship

<http://web.mit.edu/mitdlbc/www/home.html>



Join BuzzStream.com TODAY!

Audition Information - Spring 2000

Solo piece of your choice.

Octet auditions of music rehearsed that evening.

Pick up Audition Requirement Information Sheet in 14N-207.

First Meeting: Thurs., Feb 10

or email magoglia@mit.edu



Dive into a career at **Dimensional Insight**
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Stop by our booth at the

MIT Career Fair

February 4th, 2000

10:00AM - 3:30PM

at the Rockwell Cage

Come and see
for yourself why
MIT graduates have
found fulfillment
and personal growth
with a leading
developer of data
analysis software
solutions.

**You'll learn about
the many benefits
of working at DI
right from our
developers and
technical staff.**

- | | |
|------------------------|--|
| ■ Challenge: | develop leading-edge data analysis software technology |
| ■ Independence: | manage your own time and methods |
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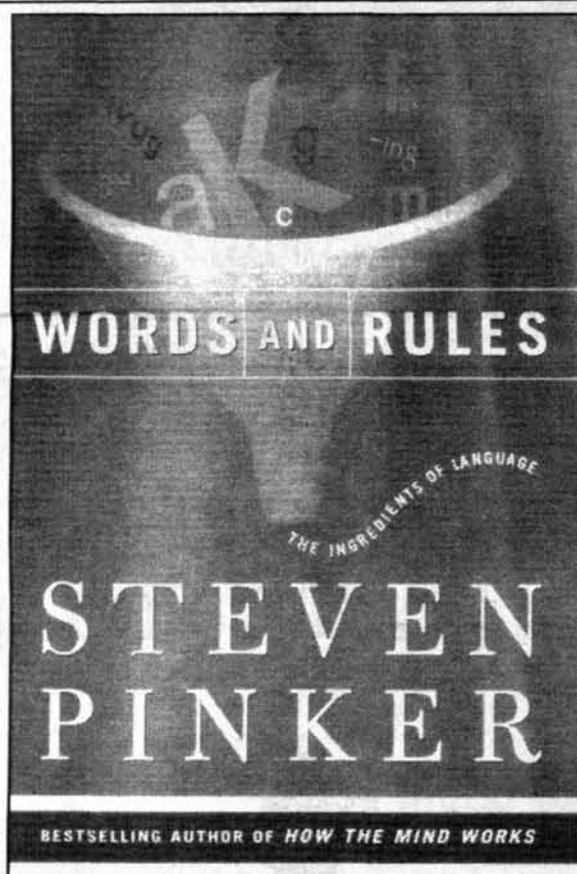
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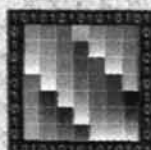
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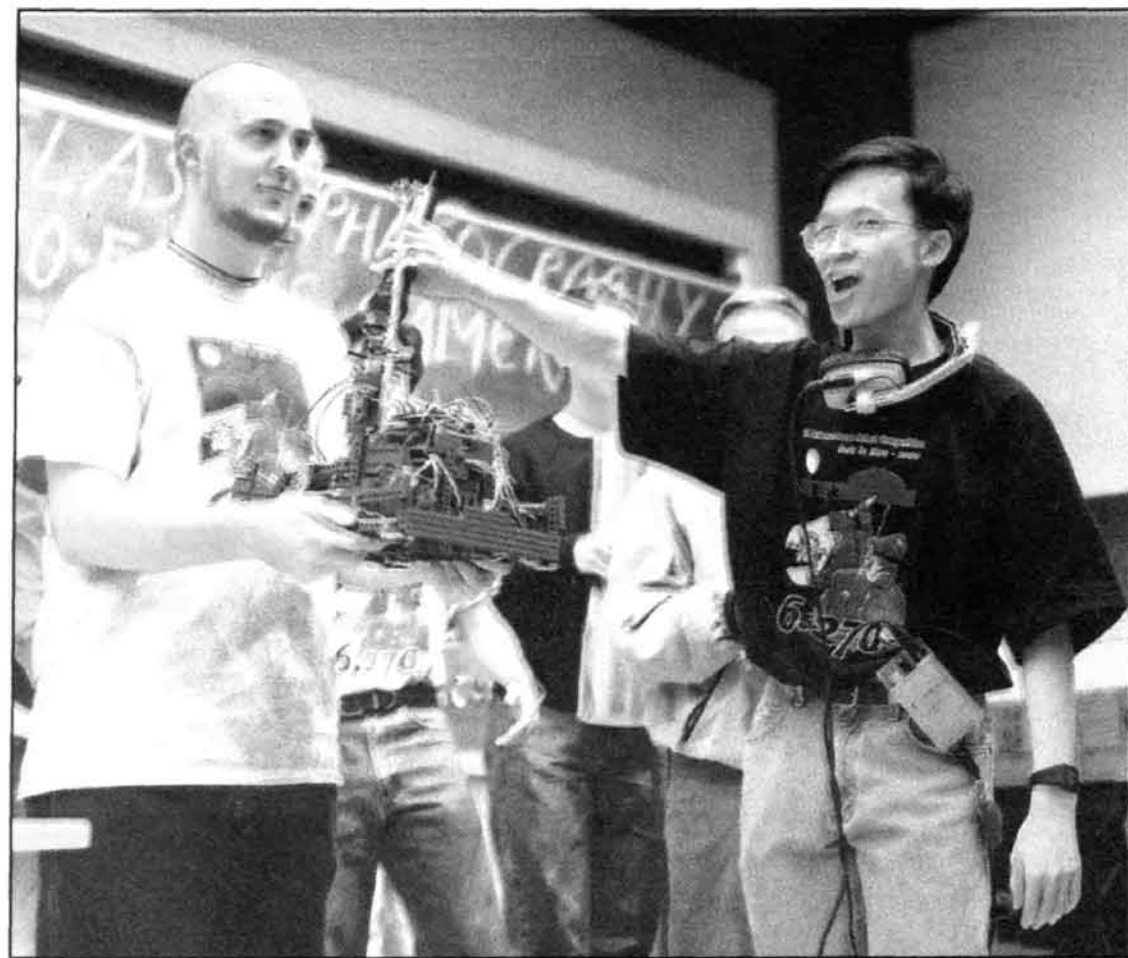
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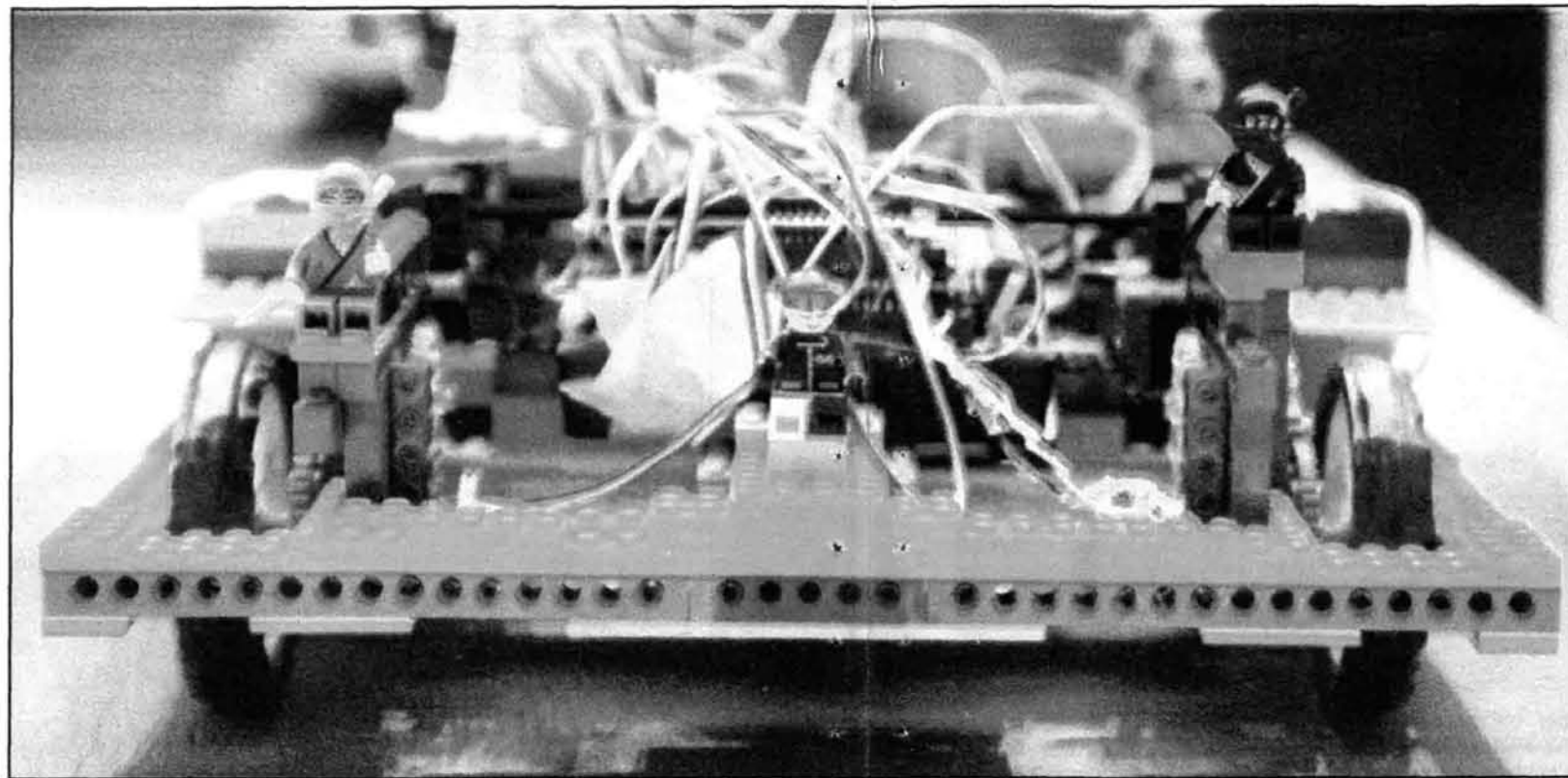
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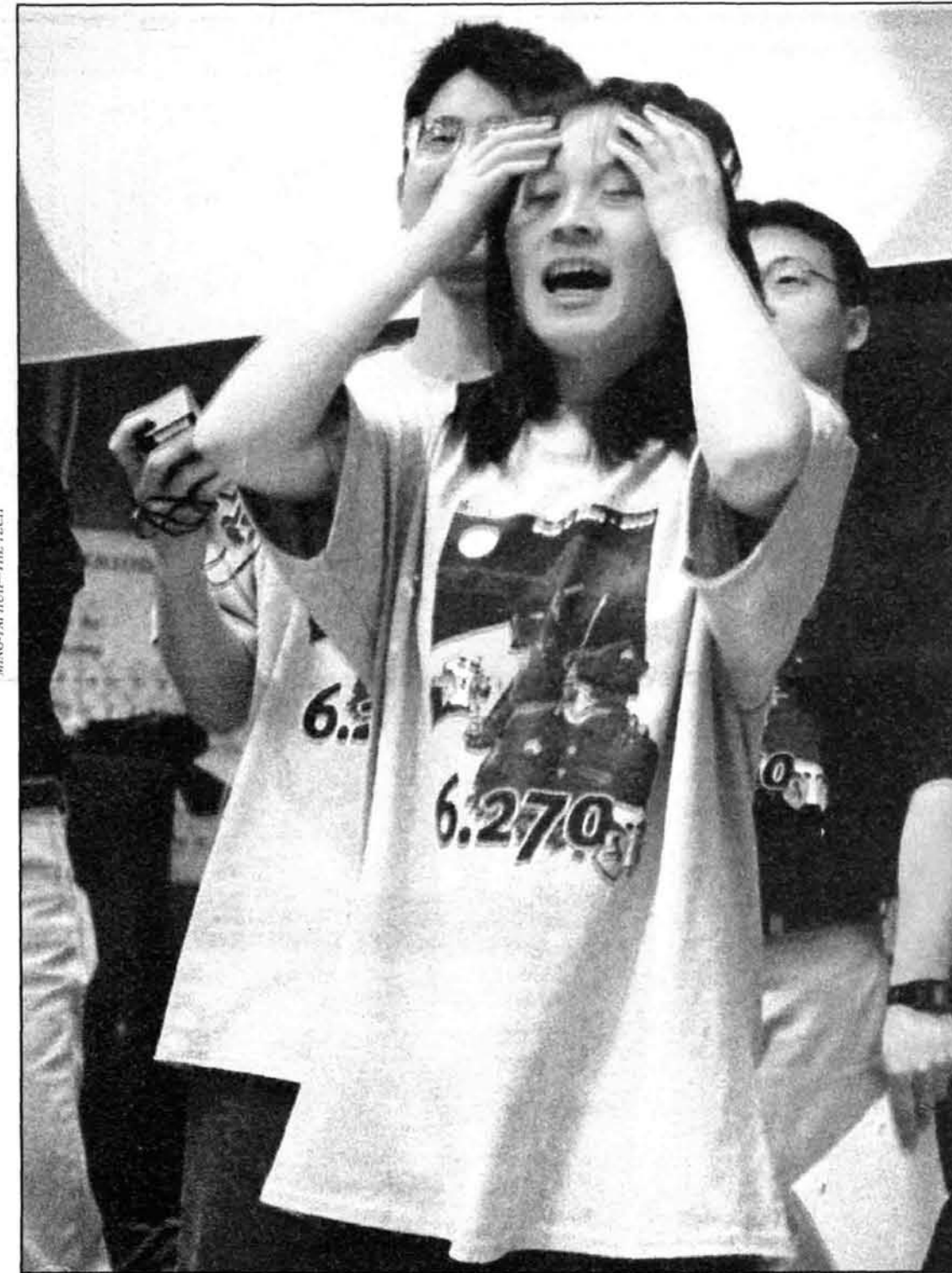
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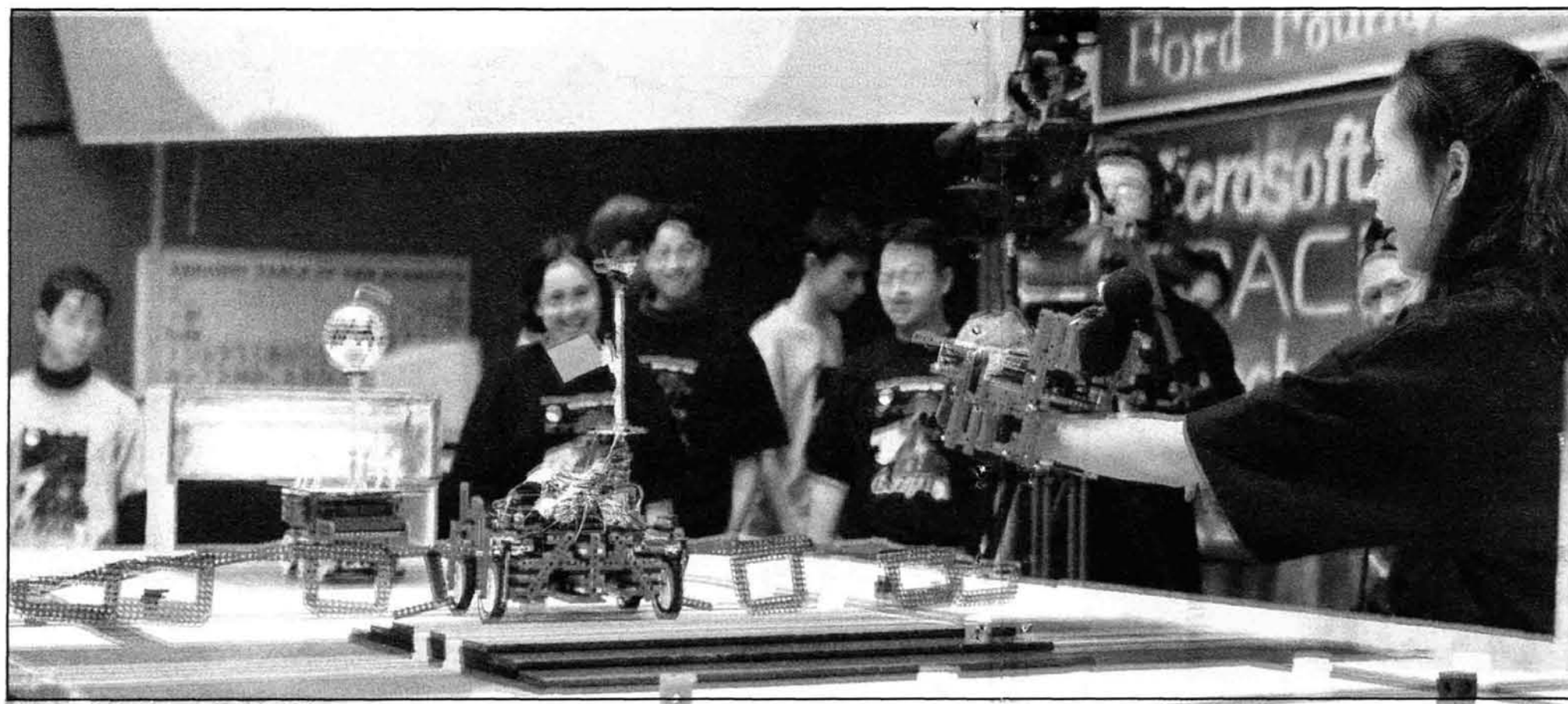
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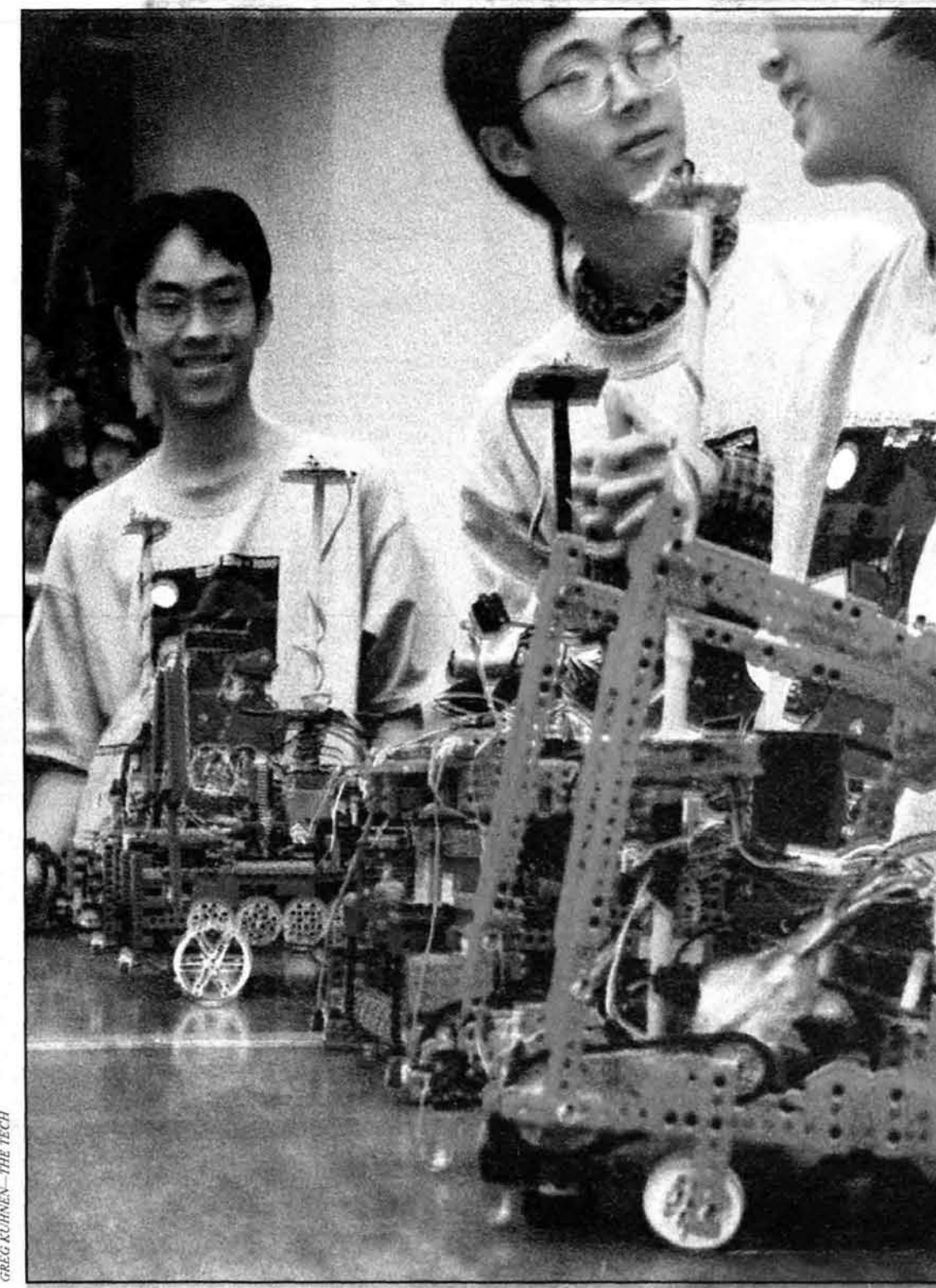
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6.270, from Page 1

Dr. Robert P. Perrin '60, a math and physics teacher that all three teammates had in high school.

Flopping arms tested in lab

With the significant delays in receiving controller boards, teams had more than enough time to consider different approaches to jailing hackers.

"We went through a lot of strategies," Hu said. After considering a sorting strategy like many other teams, the team decided to go for the professor blocks, but could only capture two originally.

"The simple solution was that our arms weren't long enough," Hu said. "When the arms were held at a certain angle ... the arms would naturally fall down and be put in perfect position."

Hu attributed much of the team's success to luck, both with the RoboSkiff Controller boards and the unfolding arms. The team had a contingency plan if the RoboSkiff board proved problematic, as it had been for many teams. "King Louie" had a C-based board waiting if necessary.

"We weren't going to lose because we chose the wrong board," Hu said.

However, other students were eager to express their dissatisfaction with the RoboSkiff controller boards, which often malfunctioned, short-circuited, and even sparked and smoked. When course organizers announced sponsors for the contest, contestants booed and hissed the controller board sponsors, some of whom

were actually in attendance.

Team 47 member Mark F. Tompkins '02 said that the team burned out three RoboSkiff boards — one "actually smoked," Tompkins said — before finding a functional board. All three members of Team 47 are majoring in computer science.

"I actually don't think the robots were quite as complex as previous years," said Tompkins. "I think our team ... could have made much cooler robots."

Guo and Hu are majoring in Course



VI, while Finn is majoring in Biology.

Last year's contest more exciting

Thirty-one teams competed in the final round of this year's 6.270 contest. As usual, eager fans quickly filled all of the seats in 26-100 and the crowd poured into the aisles. The crowding was so severe that Campus Police officers forced all aisle-bound spectators to leave the hall because of fire regulations. Those not lucky enough to find an open seat were relegated to MIT Student Cable coverage.

However, early in Round 1, many of the sponsors in attendance began leaving. Because teams had so little time to test and debug their robots, they were limited

to very simple strategies, and this year's contest lacked much of the excitement of last year's contest.

Whereas outright combat and battling robots were common last year in "Raiders of the Lost Parts," students this year cheered even the slightest contact for lack of anything more dramatic.

By 7:15, much of the standing crowd in the back of 26-100 had cleared out, and empty seats were readily available.

Only one vehicle this year used detachable, secondary vehicles, but it could not score any points. Last year, when teams had far more time to program and test, such complex robots were commonplace.

Course organizer Mouser Williams G said before the contest that there were no "real killers" in "Bots in Blue."

"The average score [was] between four and ten points," Williams said, although scores on the order of 30 points were not implausible.

Perhaps the most amusing aspect of this year's contest was the team names. Among them were Team 4 "Nication," Team 8 "Chuck West," Team 20 "Delusions of Adequacy," Team 43 "Ten Minute Code," and Team 55 "Time Bomb."

Lauren H. Bradford '02, a member of Team 31 "Suicidal Tendencies," said that her team's robot was named for its habit of jumping off the practice table.

"This code was loaded on about 20 minutes before impounding," Bradford said. "It doesn't score enough to win." Nonetheless, Bradford said the competition was "a lot of fun."

Clockwise from top left:
(top left) Mr. Glitch demonstrates its siren to the audience.
(top center) Lego men prepare for battle.
(top right) Jessica Huang '03 watches as her robot, Ten Minute Code, hangs against a wall.
(bottom right) King Louie, Heavenly Peas, and Perrin stand by to compete.
(bottom) Joyance XXX checks to make sure robots have properly functioning IR beacons.
(bottom left) Contestant David Lipsky '03 catches up on lost sleep in between rounds.
(left) Organizers Mouser Williams G and Adrian Danielli '97 do their impressions of this year's winning robot, King Louie.

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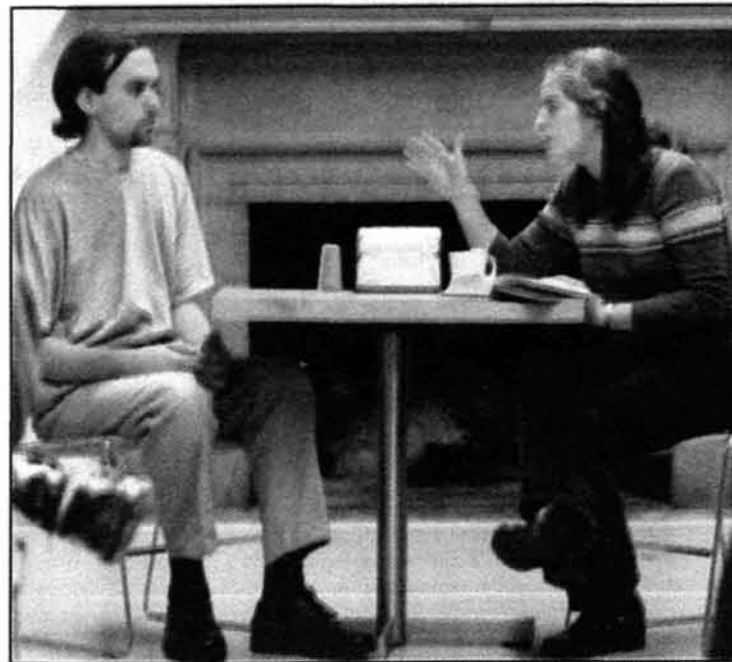
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Miodrag Cirkovic—THE TECH

Brian Keller '01 and Rachel Kline '01 perform in a scene from *Sure Thing*. The scene was one of many scenes from various Shakespearean plays presented by the Shakespeare Ensemble in Midwinter Madness this past weekend.

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I-Campus Proposals Compete for Funds

I-Campus, from Page 1

dent proposals," Abelson said, and another cycle of proposals may be possible in the fall.

Background of I-Campus

Project I-Campus is a joint initiative between MIT and Microsoft formed last December; as part of the initiative, Microsoft has pledged \$25 million to MIT over the next five years. Both students and non-students at MIT had the opportunity to submit preliminary proposals during IAP to gain a portion of the \$25 million.

As listed on the I-Campus web page <<http://web.mit.edu/i-campus>>, the primary criterion for selection of proposals is the "significance of the education impact." In addition, the steering committee considered the commitment levels of the student organizations to carry on the implementation of their proposals, Abelson said.

The student proposals

"The Student Information Infrastructure Initiative" is a proposal to create a mobile workstation using the latest wireless and networking technology.

Andrew S. Huang G, one of the students working on the project, said the mobile workstation would be "very robust and compact, like a Palm Pilot." The device would provide, among other things, students continuous access to network services such as the Athena filesystem and utilize a head-mounted microdisplay.

"A Cryptographically Secure Successor to the MIT Card," a project initiated within the Student Information Processing Board, proposes to use the latest in smart-card

technology to authenticate users and let them make purchases without compromising their identities.

"The MIT card does not use the latest security techniques," Abelson said.

"An Interactive Introduction to the Institute," backed by all undergraduate student governments and several other administrative bodies, is a proposal "to create CD-ROM and web-based resources concerning freshman academics and student life and provide them to incoming freshmen prior to their arrival on campus."

Undergraduate Association President Matthew L. McGann '00 said that he envisioned that students in the future would be able to go online to tour living groups, the campus, and student activities.

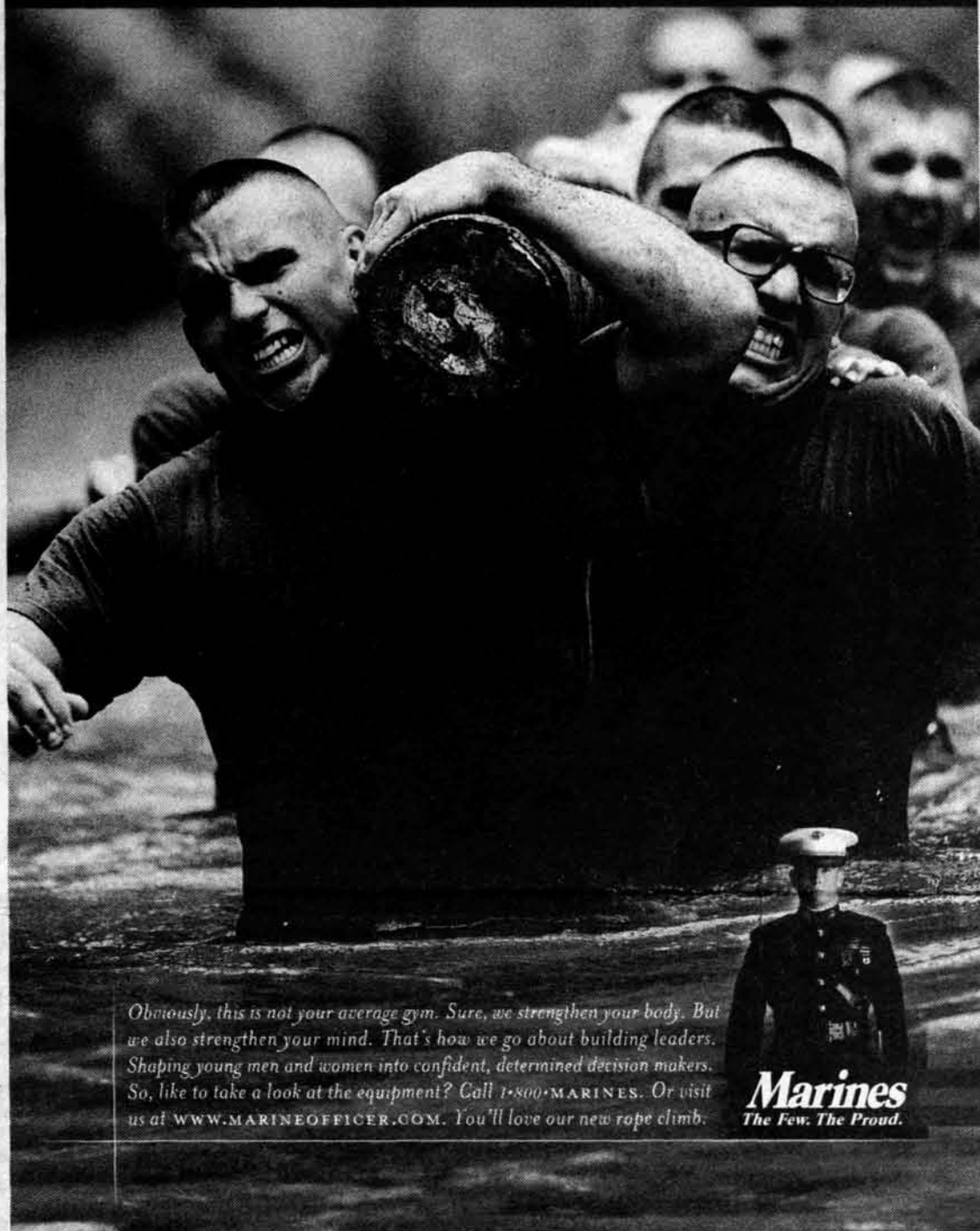
Abelson said the proposal could explore the "next great round of virtual reality," and that Microsoft has several groups working on virtual reality.

Members of the Black Student Graduate Association submitted the proposal, "Classroom Communicator," an idea to create a question-and-answer system in classes. Using a small handheld device, students would be able to enter the text of their questions, which would then be transmitted through a wireless network to a central computer that a lecturer could use to enhance his or her presentation.

Abelson said the "Classroom Communicator" is a proposal that can be easily implemented, perhaps even for lectures next fall.

The student groups who made the final two proposals, "E-Board" and "Slugtech," were encouraged to work together on ways to connect whiteboards to the web, Abelson said.

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Silbey, from Page 1

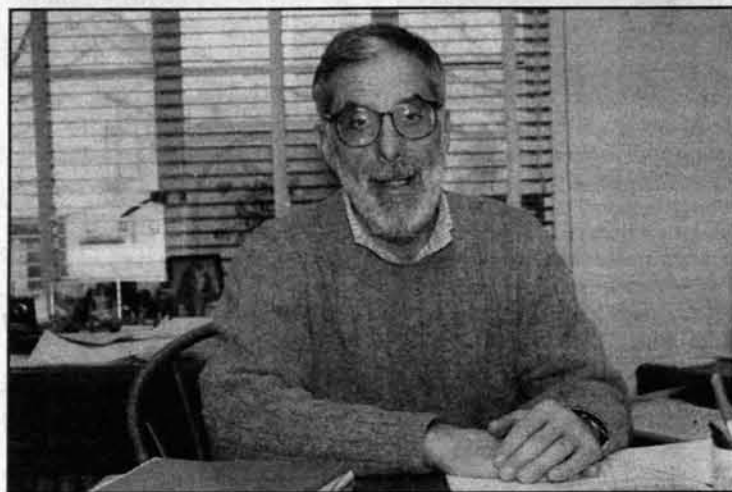
believes that the search for a new dean will take between six months and a year. Birgeneau will serve as an adviser to Silbey until he leaves in July.

Brown has recently appointed an advisory committee to search for a new permanent dean of science. "The interim appointment was made with no prejudice for or against Professor

Silbey as a candidate," Vest said.

For at least the first four or five months of his tenure as interim dean, Silbey plans to maintain his position as director of the Center for Material Science Engineering. "Fortunately, there is not a lot of administrative work to be done at the Center this semester," Silbey said.

"I look forward very much to working with him as a member of the Academic Council," Vest said.



Robert J. Silbey

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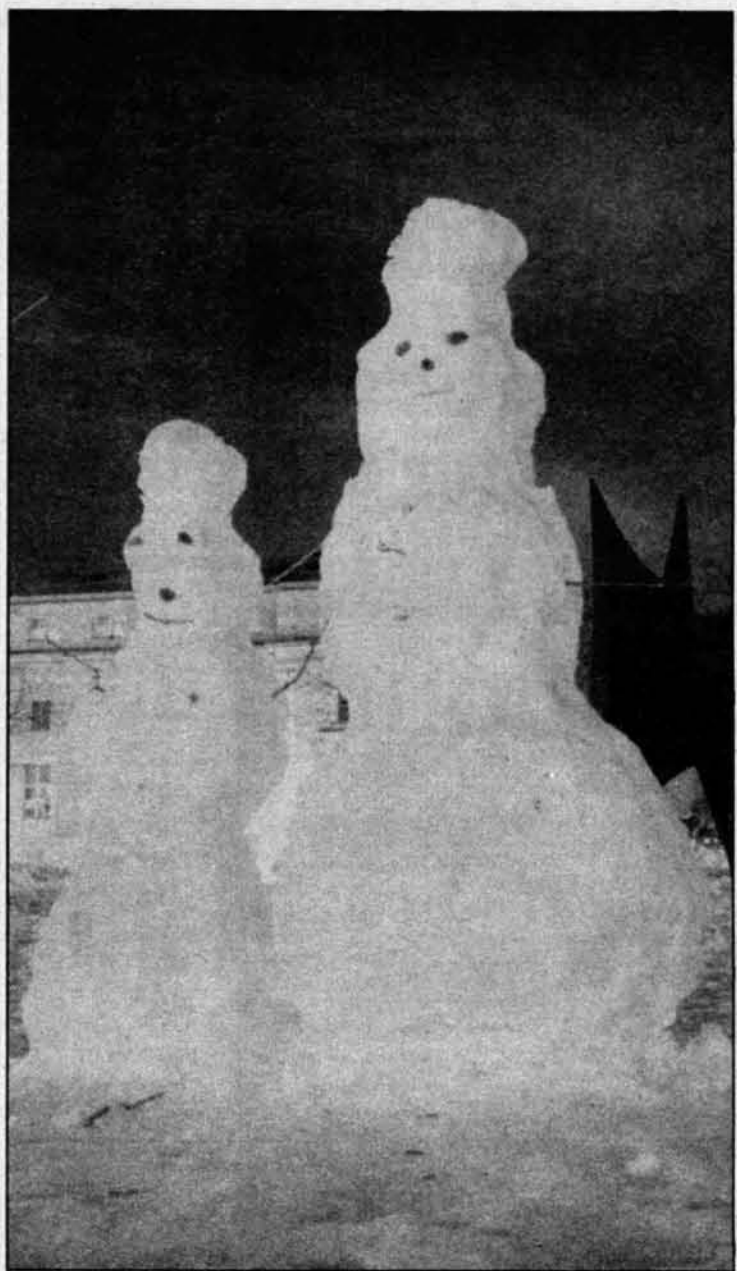
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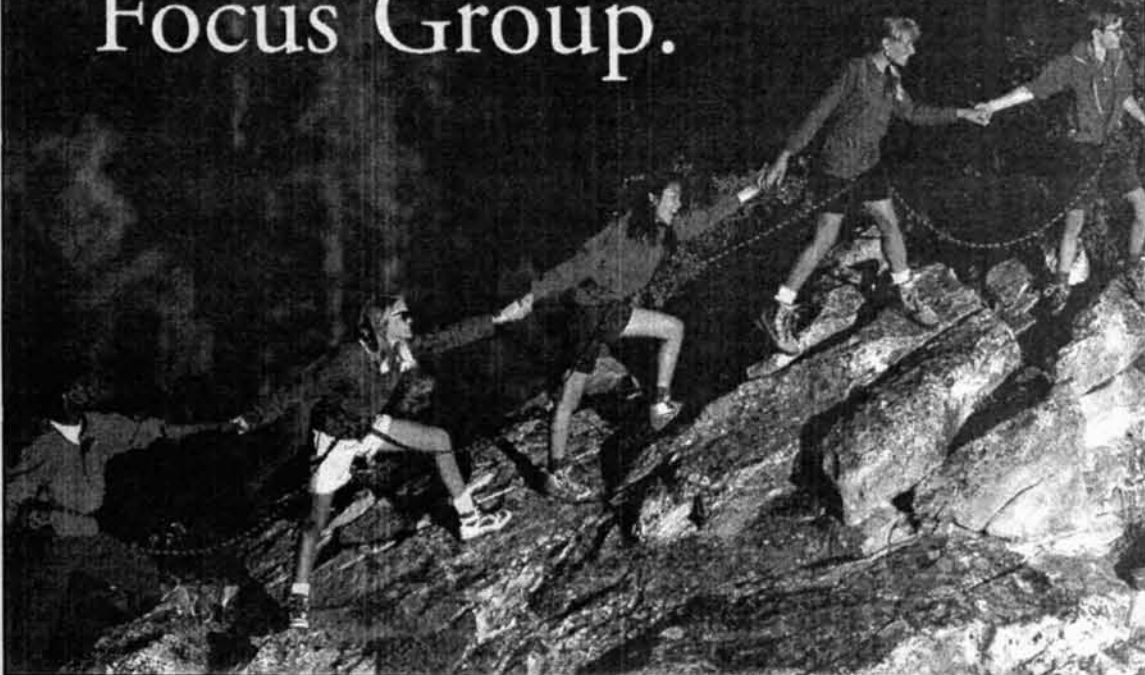


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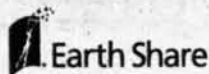
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**Snowberg Receives 429 First Place Votes;
Bid Fails Despite Record Student Turnout**

**Core Blitz Presents
Class Info to Frosh**

MIT Officials Defend New Dorm Design at Hearing

Hearing, from Page 1

height of the new dorm and wondered why it could not be as tall as the shorter dorms along Memorial Dr.

Tim Baines, Designer and Project Coordinator for Steven Holl Architects, which is designing the dorm, said, "Along Memorial Drive, MIT bought the wider piece of land than they used in order for future expansion, but along Vassar St., the train tracks hamper the amount of space to be taken, so to have enough room for 350 people, then the height must become a factor."

Simha said that as future construction approaches Ft. Washington Park, the average height of newly constructed buildings must drop. The projected view from Ft. Wash-

ington Park made some upset, but there was a suggestion that with a square of buildings around the park the sight of the dorm would disappear.

Charlie Sullivan, Deputy Director of the Historical Commission, said that the original plan for Ft. Washington Park was for it to be surrounded by a row of houses.

In response to questions about the appearance of the new dorm, Baines displayed the dorm's floor plan and a sheet of the aluminum that will cover the facade of the new building. The new dorm is to include a midnight cafe, a dining hall, and a miniature park. Holes cut through the building provide sky views and continue to offer vistas to Cambridgeport residents instead of a solid aluminum wall.

Citizens were also concerned that the new dorm would add parking problems in the nearby parking lot. Simha said that since most MIT students do not own a vehicle, there would not be a significant change in traffic.

Jeff C. Roberts '02, Chairman of the Committee on House Government, said, "Most of the

questions I got were how students would react to live in the new dorm. Citizens thought that the dorm was too dark for students."

Housing forum planned

Construction of the new dorm is scheduled to begin this March. It will be located at 229 Vassar St. and house approximately 350 people,

including housemasters and advisers.

The Dorm's Founders' Group will host a community forum on Monday, February 7th, to discuss both the progress of the new dormitory and larger residence issues. Tim Baines and Project Director, Deborah Poodry, will be presenting. The forum will be held from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. in Room 10-250.



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I used a big cooking pot for a helmet, an' a toilet plunger for a sword, an' me and the neighbor kids used to have these wars.



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7:00 pm

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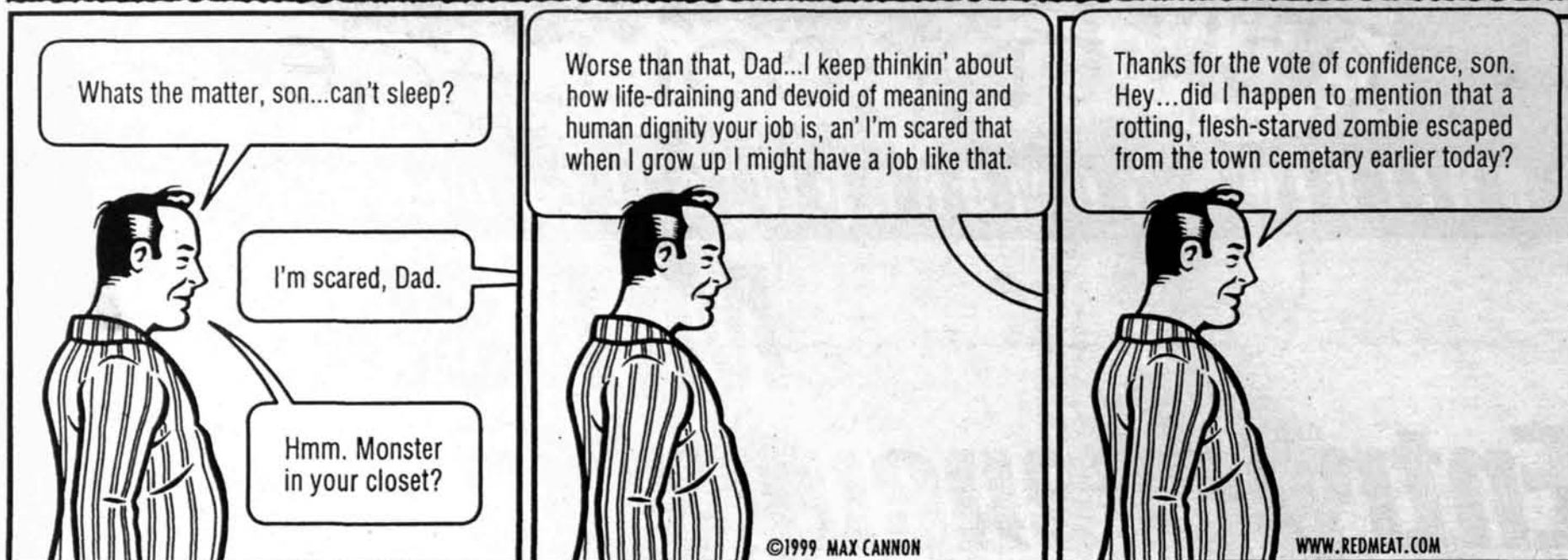
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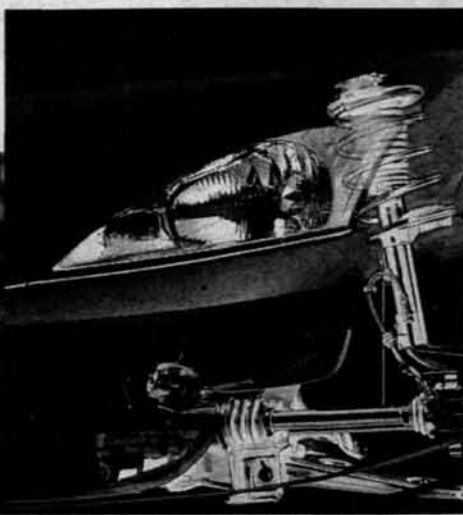
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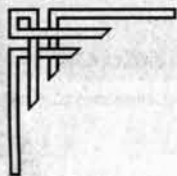
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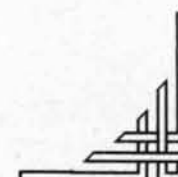
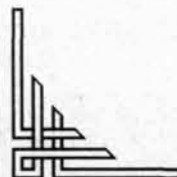
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MIODRAG CIRKOVIC—THE TECH

Raffi Babikian '01 maneuvers around the Community College of Rhode Island defense in Thursday's game. MIT triumphed 10-2.



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Women's Track and Field Score Card

Smith Quad Cup Meet Results 1/29/2000

MIT — 255.5
Coast Guard — 126 Westfield — 65
Smith — 111 NYU — 43.5

Long Jump

1 Theresa K. Burianek G
(15-7) [PR, VR, NE]
2 Lori A. Eich '03 (14-1)
3 Stephanie A. Norris '02
(13-8 3/4) [PR]

Shot Put

3 Princess Imoukhuede '02
(36-7 3/4) [ECAC]

Pole Vault

1 Vanessa Li '02 (10-0)
NCAA
2 Norris 10-0 NCAA [Norris
has improved and met All-NE's
standards]

Weight Throw

1 Imoukhuede (47-10) [NCAA]

Triple Jump

2 Burianek (32-3 3/4) [PR, VR,
NE]

55 meter hurdles

2 Alyssa S. Thorvaldsen '00
(8.93s) ANE
3 Burianek (9.74s)

55 meter dash

2 Afua B. Banful '03 (7.84s)
[NE]
3 Adeline L. Kuo '02 (7.98s)

200 meter dash

1 Banful (28.12s) [PR, NE]

400 meter dash

1 Thorvaldsen (61.27s) [VR,
PR, ECAC]

600 meter dash

1 Regina Sam (1:47.73)

800 meter dash

3 Deborah S. Won '00
(2:29.30s) [NE]

1000 meter run

2 Robin Evans G 3:20.56 [PR]
3 Melanie Harris '01
3:30.94

MILE race

2 Evans 5:39.85 [PR]

5000 meter run

1 Won 18:15.52 [ANE]

4x4 relay

1 (Sam, Wang, Nichols, Thor-
valdsen) 4:27.14

4x8 relay

3 (Norris, Power, Li, Kuo)
12:53.39

Meet notes:

Theresa Burianek clinched
ECAC CHAMPS pentathlon quali-
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*PR—Personal indoor record
VR—Varsity record
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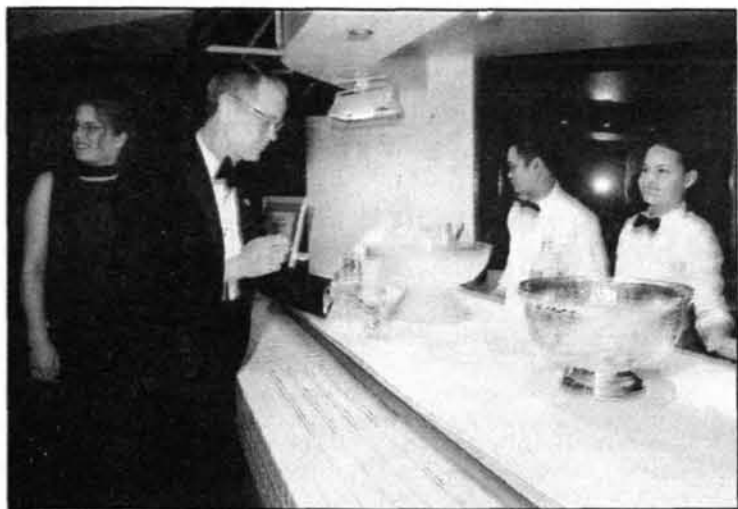
you have a pint of stout. Your friend has a pint of lager.
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MIT

MILLENNIUM

Ball

By Karen Robinson
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

The success of last weekend's Millennium Ball surprised even its organizers. Twice as many students, faculty, and staff as expected came to see the Student Center all decked out and to celebrate the new millennium.

The Millennium Ball was organized by a group of people from several campus offices, including the Campus Activities Complex and Office of Academic Services, and student groups.

Funds for the event were provided by the president's office, said Vice President Kathryn A. Willmore. The numbers have not been tabulated yet, but "these things don't come cheap," she said.

Ball exceeds expectations

"Our goal was about a thousand people," said organizer Ted Johnson, Associate Director of Programs in the Campus Activities Complex. In all, about two thousand people bought ball tickets.

The many pre-ball dinners around campus helped raise attendance, organizers said. The Dormitory Council offered \$200 to any dorm interested in planning a dinner before the ball, said Jennifer A. Frank, DormCon president. At least seven campus dorms did host dinners. Between 100 and 150 people attended the East Campus dinner alone, Frank said.

Carolyn Ng '03 said the ball definitely met her expectations, and the food was especially good. Another student, Saria Hassan '01, said "the live band was tight," and also appreciated the wealth of deserts and soft drinks available.

"We didn't really know what to expect," said Elizabeth Cogliano Young, Coordinator of Student Programs in the Office of Academic Services.

Bringing back the ball tradition

Doing research for a class last year, Van L. Chu '99, Staff Assistant for Programming Initiatives in the Office of Academic Services, came across the fact that balls in Walker Memorial Hall were held every four to five years. Balls in Walker ended about thirty years ago, but several have been held in the student center since then.

According to Willmore, there were several campus-wide balls in the 1980's and during the presidency of Paul E. Gray '54. During the early 1990's finances were tighter, so it was feared that a ball would be seen as an unnecessary expenditure, Willmore said.

Chu and Undergraduate Association President Matthew L. McGann '00 then proposed the Millennium Ball as a device to foster student-faculty interaction, and perhaps rekindle the ball tradition.

"The success of the party last Saturday showed that it really is an important thing to do [for the Institute]," Willmore said.

The party was not just attended by groups of students, Johnson said, but also by groups from academic departments.

Student Misha V. Koshelev '02 said he attended the ball partially because he called two different fraternities and found that most brothers from both were going to the ball. "I had never heard of frat brothers going to MIT-sponsored events before," Koshelev said.

Stratton's new look

Stratton Student Center was transformed to a party location by the outside consultant who worked on Johnson Games, an occasional event last held for President Vest's inauguration, ten years ago, Dianne Devitt. "The theatrical company sent a crew of 25," Johnson said. "They came at midnight the night before the ball, and worked until the ball began."

After the ball, it took eight or nine hours to break it all down. The Student Center is back to normal now, and the pizza/pasta counter in Lobdell has no soda stools.

"I know that students won't look at the Student Center in the same way after this," Johnson said.



WAN YUSOF WAN MORSHIDI—THE TECH

SPORTS

Alpine Skiing Team Kicks Off Regular Season Weekend Races

Severe Windchill Temperatures Measured at -35° on the Slopes

By Jonathan Shefftz
HEAD COACH

The men's and women's alpine squads of MIT's varsity ski racing team completed their first of five regular season race weekends. UMass hosted the race at Berkshire East (MA) on January 22-23. MIT was well-prepared for the collegiate season, having already trained for three weeks straight at Loon Mountain NH, and had competed four individual-based races.

The women hoped to retain their seventh-place standing from the 1999 season, but Babson College snuck ahead of them in Saturday's slalom to leave MIT a step behind in eighth. Marcy E. Paul '03 provided MIT's top time, followed by captain Marianne H. Okal Jr. '02 and Sarah M. Briggs '03.

The men had a less successful day, nevertheless they still finished ahead of UConn to take ninth place. Co-captain Ryan D. Maupin '00 provided the top time, followed by Jonathan C. Bates '03, and co-captain Todd O. DuMond

'00. MIT was even well-prepared for the gale-force winds and negative 35-degree windchill that greeted them Saturday morning, due to January training in the same arctic conditions. However, the wind still took its toll on some skiers, nearly blowing Lisabeth L. Willey '02 backwards to a standstill. At the same time, the winds knocked Coach Jonathan Shefftz off the start ramp.

For Sunday's giant slalom, the women expected to retake seventh from Babson, especially since Babson's top skier is a slalom — not giant slalom — specialist. Unfortunately, Babson once again snuck ahead, this time by only half a second, or less than one-tenth of a second per skier per run.

The men had an even rougher time on Sunday, losing two of their top skiers. However, rivals St. Anselm and UConn had an even less successful day, allowing MIT to take eighth. Top three runs were made by DuMond, followed by Bates, and Jay J. Fucetola '01.

MIT's alpine squads compete in the Eastern Collegiate Ski Conference's Osborne Division, which contains the second-most competitive collection of NCAA teams in the Eastern U.S.: Boston College, Plymouth State, UMass Amherst, Smith (women), Babson, St. Anselm's, Brown, Colby-Sawyer, New England College, and UConn. Since NCAA skiing competition is non-divisional, skiing is one of the few sports in which MIT competes against all Division schools.



ROSHAN BALIGA—THE TECH

Forward Terraun Jones '01 takes an off-balance shot in last Thursday's game against Brandeis University. Despite a strong comeback by MIT in the final minutes, Brandeis defeated the Engineers 84-79.

UPCOMING HOME EVENTS

T Featured Upcoming Event

The Men's Ice Hockey Team is hot on the ice with 9-1-1 record. This Wednesday at 8:00 p.m. they take on rival Central Connecticut State University at the Johnson Ice Area.

Tuesday, February 1

Women's Basketball vs. US Coast Guard Academy, 7:00 p.m.
Squash vs. Tufts University, 4:00 p.m.

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